



U.S. Department  
of Transportation  
**Federal Aviation  
Administration**

800 Independence Ave., S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20591

August 17, 2015

Exemption No. 12484  
Regulatory Docket No. FAA-2015-1909

Mr. James A. Johnson  
Counsel  
Legal EZE Technology, Inc.  
9251 Irvington BLB Highway, #1210  
Irvington, AL 36544

Dear Mr. Johnson:

This letter is to inform you that we have granted your request for exemption. It transmits our decision, explains its basis, and gives you the conditions and limitations of the exemption, including the date it ends.

By letter dated May 13, 2015, you petitioned the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) on behalf of Legal EZE Technology, Inc. (hereinafter petitioner or operator) for an exemption. The petitioner requested to operate an unmanned aircraft system (UAS) to conduct aerial photography and videography services for surveying, evidence collection, and closed set filming.

See Appendix A for the petition submitted to the FAA describing the proposed operations and the regulations that the petitioner seeks an exemption.

The FAA has determined that good cause exists for not publishing a summary of the petition in the Federal Register because the requested exemption would not set a precedent, and any delay in acting on this petition would be detrimental to the petitioner.

#### **Airworthiness Certification**

The UAS proposed by the petitioner are the DJI Inspire 1 and DJI Phantom 3.

In accordance with the statutory criteria provided in Section 333 of Public Law 112–95 in reference to 49 U.S.C. § 44704, and in consideration of the size, weight, speed, and limited operating area associated with the aircraft and its operation, the Secretary of Transportation has determined that this aircraft meets the conditions of Section 333. Therefore, the FAA finds that relief from 14 CFR part 21, *Certification procedures for products and parts, Subpart H—Airworthiness Certificates*, and any associated noise certification and testing requirements of part 36, is not necessary.

### **The Basis for Our Decision**

You have requested to use a UAS for aerial data collection<sup>1</sup> and closed set motion picture and filming. The FAA has issued grants of exemption in circumstances similar in all material respects to those presented in your petition. In Grants of Exemption Nos. 11062 to Astraeus Aerial (*see* Docket No. FAA–2014–0352), 11109 to Clayco, Inc. (*see* Docket No. FAA–2014–0507), 11112 to VDOS Global, LLC (*see* Docket No. FAA–2014–0382), and 11213 to Aeryon Labs, Inc. (*see* Docket No. FAA–2014–0642), the FAA found that the enhanced safety achieved using an unmanned aircraft (UA) with the specifications described by the petitioner and carrying no passengers or crew, rather than a manned aircraft of significantly greater proportions, carrying crew in addition to flammable fuel, gives the FAA good cause to find that the UAS operation enabled by this exemption is in the public interest.

Having reviewed your reasons for requesting an exemption, I find that—

- They are similar in all material respects to relief previously requested in Grant of Exemption Nos. 11062, 11109, 11112, and 11213;
- The reasons stated by the FAA for granting Exemption Nos. 11062, 11109, 11112, and 11213 also apply to the situation you present; and
- A grant of exemption is in the public interest.

### **Our Decision**

In consideration of the foregoing, I find that a grant of exemption is in the public interest. Therefore, pursuant to the authority contained in 49 U.S.C. 106(f), 40113, and 44701, delegated to me by the Administrator, Legal EZE Technology, Inc. is granted an exemption from 14 CFR §§ 61.23(a) and (c), 61.101(e)(4) and (5), 61.113(a), 61.315(a), 91.7(a), 91.119(c), 91.121, 91.151(a)(1), 91.405(a), 91.407(a)(1), 91.409(a)(1) and (2), and 91.417(a) and (b), to the extent necessary to allow the petitioner to operate a UAS to perform aerial data collection and closed set motion picture and filming. This exemption is subject to the conditions and limitations listed below.

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<sup>1</sup> Aerial data collection includes any remote sensing and measuring by an instrument(s) aboard the UA. Examples include imagery (photography, video, infrared, etc.), electronic measurement (precision surveying, RF analysis, etc.), chemical measurement (particulate measurement, etc.), or any other gathering of data by instruments aboard the UA.

## Conditions and Limitations

In this grant of exemption, Legal EZE Technology, Inc. is hereafter referred to as the operator.

Failure to comply with any of the conditions and limitations of this grant of exemption will be grounds for the immediate suspension or rescission of this exemption.

1. Operations authorized by this grant of exemption are limited to the DJI Inspire 1 and DJI Phantom 3 when weighing less than 55 pounds including payload. Proposed operations of any other aircraft will require a new petition or a petition to amend this exemption.
2. Operations for the purpose of closed-set motion picture and television filming are permitted.
3. The UA may not be operated at a speed exceeding 87 knots (100 miles per hour). The exemption holder may use either groundspeed or calibrated airspeed to determine compliance with the 87 knot speed restriction. In no case will the UA be operated at airspeeds greater than the maximum UA operating airspeed recommended by the aircraft manufacturer.
4. The UA must be operated at an altitude of no more than 400 feet above ground level (AGL). Altitude must be reported in feet AGL.
5. The UA must be operated within visual line of sight (VLOS) of the PIC at all times. This requires the PIC to be able to use human vision unaided by any device other than corrective lenses, as specified on the PIC's FAA-issued airman medical certificate or U.S. driver's license.
6. All operations must utilize a visual observer (VO). The UA must be operated within the visual line of sight (VLOS) of the PIC and VO at all times. The VO may be used to satisfy the VLOS requirement as long as the PIC always maintains VLOS capability. The VO and PIC must be able to communicate verbally at all times; electronic messaging or texting is not permitted during flight operations. The PIC must be designated before the flight and cannot transfer his or her designation for the duration of the flight. The PIC must ensure that the VO can perform the duties required of the VO.
7. This exemption and all documents needed to operate the UAS and conduct its operations in accordance with the conditions and limitations stated in this grant of exemption, are hereinafter referred to as the operating documents. The operating documents must be accessible during UAS operations and made available to the

Administrator upon request. If a discrepancy exists between the conditions and limitations in this exemption and the procedures outlined in the operating documents, the conditions and limitations herein take precedence and must be followed.

Otherwise, the operator must follow the procedures as outlined in its operating documents. The operator may update or revise its operating documents. It is the operator's responsibility to track such revisions and present updated and revised documents to the Administrator or any law enforcement official upon request. The operator must also present updated and revised documents if it petitions for extension or amendment to this grant of exemption. If the operator determines that any update or revision would affect the basis upon which the FAA granted this exemption, then the operator must petition for an amendment to its grant of exemption. The FAA's UAS Integration Office (AFS-80) may be contacted if questions arise regarding updates or revisions to the operating documents.

8. Any UAS that has undergone maintenance or alterations that affect the UAS operation or flight characteristics, e.g., replacement of a flight critical component, must undergo a functional test flight prior to conducting further operations under this exemption. Functional test flights may only be conducted by a PIC with a VO and must remain at least 500 feet from other people. The functional test flight must be conducted in such a manner so as to not pose an undue hazard to persons and property.
9. The operator is responsible for maintaining and inspecting the UAS to ensure that it is in a condition for safe operation.
10. Prior to each flight, the PIC must conduct a pre-flight inspection and determine the UAS is in a condition for safe flight. The pre-flight inspection must account for all potential discrepancies, e.g., inoperable components, items, or equipment. If the inspection reveals a condition that affects the safe operation of the UAS, the aircraft is prohibited from operating until the necessary maintenance has been performed and the UAS is found to be in a condition for safe flight.
11. The operator must follow the UAS manufacturer's maintenance, overhaul, replacement, inspection, and life limit requirements for the aircraft and aircraft components.
12. Each UAS operated under this exemption must comply with all manufacturer safety bulletins.
13. Under this grant of exemption, a PIC must hold either an airline transport, commercial, private, recreational, or sport pilot certificate. The PIC must also hold a current FAA airman medical certificate or a valid U.S. driver's license issued by a state, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, a territory, a possession, or the Federal government. The PIC must also meet the flight review requirements specified in 14 CFR § 61.56 in an aircraft in which the PIC is rated on his or her pilot certificate.

14. The operator may not permit any PIC to operate unless the PIC demonstrates the ability to safely operate the UAS in a manner consistent with how the UAS will be operated under this exemption, including evasive and emergency maneuvers and maintaining appropriate distances from persons, vessels, vehicles and structures. PIC qualification flight hours and currency must be logged in a manner consistent with 14 CFR § 61.51(b). Flights for the purposes of training the operator's PICs and VOs (training, proficiency, and experience-building) and determining the PIC's ability to safely operate the UAS in a manner consistent with how the UAS will be operated under this exemption are permitted under the terms of this exemption. However, training operations may only be conducted during dedicated training sessions. During training, proficiency, and experience-building flights, all persons not essential for flight operations are considered nonparticipants, and the PIC must operate the UA with appropriate distance from nonparticipants in accordance with 14 CFR § 91.119.
15. UAS operations may not be conducted during night, as defined in 14 CFR § 1.1. All operations must be conducted under visual meteorological conditions (VMC). Flights under special visual flight rules (SVFR) are not authorized.
16. The UA may not operate within 5 nautical miles of an airport reference point (ARP) as denoted in the current FAA Airport/Facility Directory (AFD) or for airports not denoted with an ARP, the center of the airport symbol as denoted on the current FAA-published aeronautical chart, unless a letter of agreement with that airport's management is obtained or otherwise permitted by a COA issued to the exemption holder. The letter of agreement with the airport management must be made available to the Administrator or any law enforcement official upon request.
17. The UA may not be operated less than 500 feet below or less than 2,000 feet horizontally from a cloud or when visibility is less than 3 statute miles from the PIC.
18. If the UAS loses communications or loses its GPS signal, the UA must return to a pre-determined location within the private or controlled-access property.
19. The PIC must abort the flight in the event of unpredicted obstacles or emergencies.
20. The PIC is prohibited from beginning a flight unless (considering wind and forecast weather conditions) there is enough available power for the UA to conduct the intended operation and to operate after that for at least five minutes or with the reserve power recommended by the manufacturer if greater.
21. Air Traffic Organization (ATO) Certificate of Waiver or Authorization (COA). All operations shall be conducted in accordance with an ATO-issued COA. The exemption holder may apply for a new or amended COA if it intends to conduct operations that cannot be conducted under the terms of the attached COA.

22. All aircraft operated in accordance with this exemption must be identified by serial number, registered in accordance with 14 CFR part 47, and have identification (N-Number) markings in accordance with 14 CFR part 45, Subpart C. Markings must be as large as practicable.
23. Documents used by the operator to ensure the safe operation and flight of the UAS and any documents required under 14 CFR §§ 91.9 and 91.203 must be available to the PIC at the Ground Control Station of the UAS any time the aircraft is operating. These documents must be made available to the Administrator or any law enforcement official upon request.
24. The UA must remain clear and give way to all manned aviation operations and activities at all times.
25. The UAS may not be operated by the PIC from any moving device or vehicle.
26. All Flight operations must be conducted at least 500 feet from all nonparticipating persons, vessels, vehicles, and structures unless:
  - a. Barriers or structures are present that sufficiently protect nonparticipating persons from the UA and/or debris in the event of an accident. The operator must ensure that nonparticipating persons remain under such protection. If a situation arises where nonparticipating persons leave such protection and are within 500 feet of the UA, flight operations must cease immediately in a manner ensuring the safety of nonparticipating persons; and
  - b. The owner/controller of any vessels, vehicles or structures has granted permission for operating closer to those objects and the PIC has made a safety assessment of the risk of operating closer to those objects and determined that it does not present an undue hazard.

The PIC, VO, operator trainees or essential persons are not considered nonparticipating persons under this exemption.

27. All operations shall be conducted over private or controlled-access property with permission from the property owner/controller or authorized representative. Permission from property owner/controller or authorized representative will be obtained for each flight to be conducted.
28. Any incident, accident, or flight operation that transgresses the lateral or vertical boundaries of the operational area as defined by the applicable COA must be reported to the FAA's UAS Integration Office (AFS-80) within 24 hours. Accidents must be reported to the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) per instructions contained on the NTSB Web site: [www.nts.gov](http://www.nts.gov).

If this exemption permits operations for the purpose of closed-set motion picture and television filming and production, the following additional conditions and limitations apply.

29. The operator must have a motion picture and television operations manual (MPTOM) as documented in this grant of exemption.
30. At least 3 days before aerial filming, the operator of the UAS affected by this exemption must submit a written Plan of Activities to the local Flight Standards District Office (FSDO) with jurisdiction over the area of proposed filming. The 3-day notification may be waived with the concurrence of the FSDO. The plan of activities must include at least the following:
  - a. Dates and times for all flights;
  - b. Name and phone number of the operator for the UAS aerial filming conducted under this grant of exemption;
  - c. Name and phone number of the person responsible for the on-scene operation of the UAS;
  - d. Make, model, and serial or N-Number of UAS to be used;
  - e. Name and certificate number of UAS PICs involved in the aerial filming;
  - f. A statement that the operator has obtained permission from property owners and/or local officials to conduct the filming production event; the list of those who gave permission must be made available to the inspector upon request;
  - g. Signature of exemption holder or representative; and
  - h. A description of the flight activity, including maps or diagrams of any area, city, town, county, and/or state over which filming will be conducted and the altitudes essential to accomplish the operation.
31. Flight operations may be conducted closer than 500 feet from participating persons consenting to be involved and necessary for the filming production, as specified in the exemption holder's MPTOM.

Unless otherwise specified in this grant of exemption, the UAS, the UAS PIC, and the UAS operations must comply with all applicable parts of 14 CFR including, but not limited to, parts 45, 47, 61, and 91.

This exemption terminates on August 31, 2017, unless sooner superseded or rescinded.

Sincerely,

/s/

John S. Duncan

Director, Flight Standards Service

Enclosures





May 13, 2015

U.S. Department of Transportation  
Docket Management System  
1200 New Jersey Ave., SE  
Washington, DC 20590

Re: Petition of Legal EZE Technology, Inc. for Exemption Pursuant to Section 333 of the FAA Modernization and Reform Act of 2012.

To Whom It May Concern:

Pursuant to Section 333 of the FAA Modernization and Reform Act of 2012 (FMRA) and 14 CFR Part 11, Legal EZE Technology, Inc. (Legal EZE), hereby applies for an exemption from Federal Aviation Regulations (FARs) identified below and any other rules necessary to allow the commercial operations of small unmanned aerial system (i.e., UAS) under the conditions set forth in this petition. FMRA Section 333 grants the FAA authority to allow the operation of certain UAS within the national airspace.

Legal EZE is a litigation support company owned and operated by a licensed attorney with a private pilot certificate. It is contemplated that Legal EZE will use aerial photography and videography services for surveying and evidence collection.

Granting this request comports with the Secretary of Transportation's (FAA Administrator's) responsibilities and authority to not only integrate UAS's into the national airspace system, but to "...establish requirements for the safe operation of such aircraft systems [UAS's] in the national airspace system" under Section 333(c) of the Reform Act specific to the use of UAS's for commercial purposes. Further Legal EZE will conduct its operations in compliance with the protocols described herein or as otherwise established by the FAA.

Legal EZE Technology, Inc., Page 1

## **I. Contact Information**

Legal EZE Technology, Inc.  
c/o James A. Johnson  
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Irvington, AL 36544  
(251) 473-1800  
e-mail: jjohnson@jamesajohnsonpc.com

## **II. Relevant Statutory Authority:**

This petition for exemption is submitted to fulfill Congress' goal in passing Section 333(a) through (c) of the Reform Act. Congress has directed the FAA "to safely accelerate the integration of civil unmanned aircraft systems into the national airspace system." Pursuant to Section 333 of the Reform Act, the FAA Administrator is to consider whether certain unmanned aircraft systems may operate safely in the National Airspace ("NAS") before completion of the formal UAS rulemaking, based on the following considerations:

- The UAS's size, weight, speed, and operational capability;
- Operation of the UAS in close proximity to airports and populated areas; and
- Operation of the UAS within the visual line of sight of the operator.<sup>3</sup>

If the Secretary determines that such vehicles "may operate safely in the National Airspace System, the Secretary shall establish requirements for the safe operation of such aircraft in the National Airspace System".

Additionally, the FAA Administrator has general authority to grant exemptions from its safety regulations and minimum standards when the Administrator decides a requested exemption is in the public interest. A party requesting an exemption must explain the reasons why the exemption: (1) would benefit the public as a whole, and (2) would not adversely affect safety (or how it would provide a level of safety at least equal to the existing rules).

The Federal Aviation Act expressly grants the FAA the authority to issue exemptions. This statutory authority, by its terms, includes exempting civil aircraft, as the term is defined under 40101 of the Act, from the requirement that all civil aircraft must have a current airworthiness certificate and those regulations requiring commercial pilots to operate aircraft in commercial service:

The Administrator may grant an exemption from a requirement of a regulation prescribed under subsection (a) or (b) of this section or any of sections.

### **III. Qualifications for Approval Under Section 333 of the Reform Act**

The proposed operations in this petition for exemption qualify for expedited approval under Section 333 of the Reform Act. Each of the statutory criteria and other relevant factors are satisfied.

The proposed operations would permit Legal EZE the use of small UAS under controlled conditions in airspace that is: (1) predetermined; (2) controlled as to access; and that (3) provides an Increased level of safety beyond that existing when fixed or rotor wing re used to accomplish the same purpose.

Legal EZE uses UASs that are multirotor and airplanes, weighing less than 55 pounds including payload. They operate, under normal conditions, at speeds not to exceed 50 mph. The multirotor has the capability to hover and move in the vertical and horizontal plane. Legal EZE's UASs will operate in line of sight, during daylight hours, a safe distance away from persons and obstructions. Legal EZE will operate at or below 500 feet AGL and will advise the applicable Air Traffic Control (ATC) facility for each flight operated in controlled airspace that as required.

Given the small size of the UAS involved and the restricted sterile environment within which they will operate, this Legal EZE's exemption falls within the zone of safety and demonstrate an equivalent level of safety, in which Congress desired the FAA to permit commercial UAS and the confined area in which the UAS will operate, approval of the application presents no hazard in the NAS.

Considering the clear direction in Section 333 of the Reform Act, the authority contained in the Federal Aviation Act, as amended, the equivalent level of safety surrounding the proposed operations, and the significant public benefit, the grant of the requested exemptions is also in the public interest.

### **IV. Description of Proposed Operations**

Below is a summary of operational limitations and conditions that will ensure an equivalent or higher level of safety to operations conducted under current regulatory guidelines:

1. The proposed operations of Legal EZE will be limited to the DJI Inspire 1 and DJI Phantom 3 when weighing less than 55 pounds including payload.
2. Any operations for the purpose of closed-set motion picture and television filming will be conducted pursuant to the regulations 29-30 below.
3. The UA will not be operated at a speed exceeding 87 knots (100 miles per hour) based upon either groundspeed or calibrated airspeed to determine compliance with the 87 knot speed restriction. In no case will the UA be operated at airspeeds greater than the maximum UA operating airspeed recommended by the aircraft manufacturer.

4. The UA will be operated at an altitude of no more than 500 feet above ground level (AGL) as reported in feet AGL.

5. The UA will be operated within visual line of sight (VLOS) of the PIC at all times. The PIC will be able to use human vision unaided by any device other than corrective lenses, as specified on the PIC's FAA-issued airman medical certificate or U.S. driver's license.

6. All operations will utilize a visual observer (VO). The UAS will be operated within the visual line of sight (VLOS) of the PIC and VO at all times. The VO may be used to satisfy the VLOS requirement as long as the PIC always maintains VLOS capability. The VO and PIC must be able to communicate verbally at all times; electronic messaging or texting is not permitted during flight operations. The PIC must be designated before the flight and cannot transfer his or her designation for the duration of the flight. The PIC must ensure that the VO can perform the duties required of the VO.

7. Legal EZE will insure the operating documents are accessible during UAS operations and made available to the Administrator upon request. The operator will follow the procedures as outlined in its operating documents. The operator may update or revise its operating documents. The operator will track such revisions and present updated and revised documents to the Administrator or any law enforcement official upon request.

8. Legal EZE will perform a functional test on any UAS that has undergone maintenance or alterations that affect the UAS operation or flight characteristics, e.g. replacement of a flight critical component, prior to conducting operations. Functional test flights will only be conducted by a PIC with a VO and must remain at least 500 feet from other people. The functional test flight must be conducted in such a manner so as to not pose an undue hazard to persons and property.

9. The operator will be responsible for maintaining and inspecting the UAS to ensure that it is in a condition for safe operation prior to every flight.

10. Prior to each flight, the PIC will conduct a pre-flight inspection and determine the UAS is in a condition for safe flight. The pre-flight inspection must account for all potential discrepancies, e.g. inoperable components, items, or equipment. If the inspection reveals a condition that affects the safe operation of the UAS, the aircraft is prohibited from operating until the necessary maintenance has been performed and the UAS is found to be in a condition for safe flight.

11. The operator will follow the UAS manufacturer's maintenance, overhaul, replacement, inspection, and life limit requirements for the aircraft and aircraft components.

12. The operator will comply with all UAS manufacturer safety bulletins.

13. The PIC will hold either an airline transport, commercial, private, recreational, or sport pilot certificate. The PIC must also hold a current FAA airman medical certificate or a valid

U.S. driver's license issued by a state, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, a territory, a possession, or the Federal government. The PIC must also meet the flight review requirements specified in 14 CFR § 61.56 in an aircraft in which the PIC is rated on his or her pilot certificate.

14. The operator will not permit any PIC to operate unless the PIC demonstrates the ability to safely operate the UAS in a manner consistent with how the UAS will be operated under this exemption, including evasive and emergency maneuvers and maintaining appropriate distances from persons, vessels, vehicles and structures. PIC qualification flight hours and currency will be logged in a manner consistent with 14 CFR § 61.51(b). Training operations will only be conducted during dedicated training sessions. During training, proficiency, and experience-building flights, all persons not essential for flight operations are considered nonparticipants, and the PIC must operate the UA with appropriate distance from nonparticipants in accordance with 14 CFR § 91.119.

15. UAS operations will not be conducted during night, as defined in 14 CFR § 1.1. All operations must be conducted under visual meteorological conditions (VMC). Flights under special visual flight rules (SVFR) will not be conducted.

16. Legal EZE will not operate a UAS within 5 nautical miles of an airport reference point (ARP) as denoted in the current FAA Airport/Facility Directory (AFD) or for airports not denoted with an ARP, the center of the airport symbol as denoted on the current FAA- published aeronautical chart, unless a letter of agreement with that airport's management is obtained or otherwise permitted by a COA issued to the exemption holder. The letter of agreement with the airport management must be made available to the Administrator or any law enforcement official upon request.

17. The UAS will not be operated less than 500 feet below or less than 2,000 feet horizontally from a cloud or when visibility is less than 3 statute miles from the PIC.

18. If the UAS loses communications or loses its GPS signal, it is programmed to return to a pre- determined location within the private or controlled-access property.

19. The PIC will abort the flight in the event of unpredicted obstacles or emergencies.

20. The PIC will not begin a flight unless (considering wind and forecast weather conditions) there is enough available power for the UA to conduct the intended operation and to operate after that for at least five minutes or with the reserve power recommended by the manufacturer if greater.

21. Air Traffic Organization (ATO) Certificate of Waiver or Authorization (COA). All operations will be conducted in accordance with an ATO-issued COA.

22. All aircraft will be identified by serial number, registered in accordance with 14 CFR part 47, and have identification (N- Number) markings in accordance with 14 CFR part 45, Subpart C. Markings must be as large as practicable.

23. Documents used by the operator to ensure the safe operation and flight of the UAS and any documents required under 14 CFR §§ 91.9 and 91.203 will be available to the PIC at the Ground Control Station of the UAS any time the aircraft is operating. These documents will be made available to the Administrator or any law enforcement official upon request.

24. The UAS will remain clear and give way to all manned aviation operations and activities at all times.

25. The UAS will not be operated by the PIC from any moving device or vehicle.

26. All Flight operations will be conducted at least 500 feet from all nonparticipating persons, vessels, vehicles, and structures unless:

- a. Barriers or structures are present that sufficiently protect nonparticipating persons from the UA and/or debris in the event of an accident. The operator will ensure that nonparticipating persons remain under such protection. If a situation arises where nonparticipating persons leave such protection and are within 500 feet of the UA, flight operations will cease immediately in a manner ensuring the safety of nonparticipating persons; and
- b. The owner/controller of any vessels, vehicles or structures has granted permission for operating closer to those objects and the PIC has made a safety assessment of the risk of operating closer to those objects and determined that it does not present an undue hazard.

27. All operations will be conducted over private or controlled-access property with permission from the property owner/controller or authorized representative. Permission from property owner/controller or authorized representative will be obtained for each flight to be conducted.

28. Any incident, accident, or flight operation that transgresses the lateral or vertical boundaries of the operational area as defined by the applicable COA will be reported to the FAA's UAS Integration Office (AFS-80) within 24 hours. Accidents must be reported to the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) per instructions contained on the NTSB Web site: [www.nts.gov](http://www.nts.gov).

29. Any operations for the purpose of closed-set motion picture and television filming will be conducted pursuant will require the operator to have a motion picture and television operations manual (MPTOM).

30. At least 3 days before aerial filming for closed-set motion picture and television filming, the operator of the UAS will submit a written Plan of Activities to the local Flight Standards District Office (FSDO) with jurisdiction over the area of proposed filming. The plan of activities will include at least the following:

- a. Dates and times for all flights;
- b. Name and phone number of the operator for the UAS aerial filming conducted under this grant of exemption;
- c. Name and phone number of the person responsible for the on-scene operation of the UAS;
- d. Make, model, and serial or N-Number of UAS to be used;
- e. Name and certificate number of UAS PICs involved in the aerial filming;
- f. A statement that the operator has obtained permission from property owners and/or local officials to conduct the filming production event; the list of those who gave permission must be made available to the inspector upon request;
- g. Signature of exemption holder or representative; and
- h. A description of the flight activity, including maps or diagrams of any area, city, town, county, and/or state over which filming will be conducted and the altitudes essential to accomplish the operation.

31. Flight operations on closed-set motion picture and television filming will not be conducted closer than 500 feet from participating persons consenting to be involved and necessary for the filming production, as specified in the exemption holder's MPTOM.

#### **V. Regulations From Which Exemption is Requested**

- A. 14 CFR § Part 61.113 (a) and (b) Private Pilot Privileges and Limitations; Pilot in Command
- B. 14 CFR § 91.103: Preflight Action
- C. 14 CFR § 91.113: Right-of-Way Rules
- D. 14 CFR § 91.119 (c): Minimum Safe Altitudes
- E. 14 CFR § 91.121: Altimeter Settings
- F. 14 CFR § 91.151(b): Fuel Requirements for Flight in VFR Conditions
- G. 14 CFR § 91.405(a), 91.407(a)(1), 91.409(a)(2); 91.417(a) and (b): Maintenance Inspections
- H. Others as may be applicable

#### **A. 14 CFR § Part 61.113 (a) and (b) Private Pilot Privileges and Limitations Pilot in Command**

Section 61.113(a) & (b) limit private pilots to non-commercial operations. Unlike a conventional aircraft that carries a pilot, passengers, and cargo, the UAS are remotely controlled with no passengers or property of others on board. Legal EZE respectfully proposes that the FAA should take into account the characteristics and procedures of the particular UAS.

Legal EZE proposes the following requirements:

The PIC will hold either an airline transport, commercial, private, recreational, or sport pilot certificate. The PIC must also hold a current FAA airman medical certificate or a valid U.S. driver's license issued by a state, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, a territory, a possession, or the Federal government. The PIC must also meet the flight review requirements specified in 14 CFR § 61.56 in an aircraft in which the PIC is rated on his or her pilot certificate.

The operator will not permit any PIC to operate unless the PIC demonstrates the ability to safely operate the UAS in a manner consistent with how the UAS will be operated under this exemption, including evasive and emergency maneuvers and maintaining appropriate distances from persons, vessels, vehicles and structures. PIC qualification flight hours and currency will be logged in a manner consistent with 14 CFR § 61.51(b). Training operations will only be conducted during dedicated training sessions. During training, proficiency, and experience-building flights, all persons not essential for flight operations are considered nonparticipants, and the PIC must operate the UA with appropriate distance from nonparticipants in accordance with 14 CFR § 91.119.

The UA will be operated within visual line of sight (VLOS) of the PIC at all times. The PIC will be able to use human vision unaided by any device other than corrective lenses, as specified on the PIC's FAA-issued airman medical certificate or U.S. driver's license.

All operations will utilize a visual observer (VO). There will be no special certification required for the VO except that they will be over the age of 18 years old and capable of observing the operation of the UAS and communicating with the PIC. The UAS will be operated within the visual line of sight (VLOS) of the PIC and VO at all times. The VO may be used to satisfy the VLOS requirement as long as the PIC always maintains VLOS capability. The VO and PIC must be able to communicate verbally at all times; electronic messaging or texting is not permitted during flight operations. The PIC must be designated before the flight and cannot transfer his or her designation for the duration of the flight. The PIC must ensure that the VO can perform the duties required of the VO.

#### **B. 14 CFR § 91.103: Preflight Action**

Legal EZE requests an exemption from the preflight actions requirements of 14 CFR 91.113 that prescribes the preflight actions under which aircraft may operate:

Each pilot in command shall, before beginning a flight, become familiar with all available information concerning that flight.

- (a) Flight under IFR or a flight not in the vicinity of an airport, weather reports and forecasts, fuel requirements, alternatives available if the planned flight cannot be completed, and any known traffic delays of which the pilot in command has been advised by ATC;
- (b) For any flight, runway lengths at airports of intended use, and the following takeoff and landing distance information:



- (1) For civil aircraft for which an approved Airplane or Rotorcraft Flight Manual containing takeoff and landing distance data is required, the takeoff and landing distance data contained therein; and
- (2) For civil aircraft other than those specified in paragraph (b)(1) of this section, other reliable information appropriate to the aircraft, relating to aircraft performance under expected values of airport elevation and runway slope, aircraft gross weight, and wind and temperature.

Legal EZE will not operate sUAS's under IFR conditions or when the ceilings are below 1000 feet and the visibility is below 3 statute miles. The DJI's UAS for which this exemption is sought (Inspire 1 and Phantom 3) do not have published approved Airplane or Rotorcraft Flight Manual containing takeoff and landing distance data.

Legal EZE will insure the operating documents (including operator's manual and safety instructions which are attached hereto for the DJI Inspire 1 and Phantom 3 UAS) are accessible during UAS operations and made available to the Administrator upon request. The operator will follow the procedures as outlined in its operating documents. The operator may update or revise its operating documents. The operator will track such revisions and present updated and revised documents to the Administrator or any law enforcement official upon request.

Legal EZE will perform a functional test on any UAS that has undergone maintenance or alterations that affect the UAS operation or flight characteristics, e.g. replacement of a flight critical component, prior to conducting operations. Functional test flights will only be conducted by a PIC with a VO and must remain at least 500 feet from other people. The functional test flight must be conducted in such a manner so as to not pose an undue hazard to persons and property.

The operator will be responsible for maintaining and inspecting the UAS to ensure that it is in a condition for safe operation prior to every flight.

Prior to each flight, the PIC will conduct a pre-flight inspection and determine the UAS is in a condition for safe flight. The pre-flight inspection must account for all potential discrepancies, e.g. inoperable components, items, or equipment. If the inspection reveals a condition that affects the safe operation of the UAS, the aircraft is prohibited from operating until the necessary maintenance has been performed and the UAS is found to be in a condition for safe flight.

The operator will follow the UAS manufacturer's maintenance, overhaul, replacement, inspection, and life limit requirements for the aircraft and aircraft components.

The operator will comply with all UAS manufacturer safety bulletins

#### **C. 14 CFR 91.113: Right-of-Way Rules**

Legal EZE request an exemption from 14 CFR 91.113 Right-of-way rules, requiring vigilance by each person operating an aircraft so as to see and avoid other aircraft. When a rule of this section gives another aircraft the right-of-way, the pilot shall give way to that aircraft and may not pass over, under, or ahead of it unless well clear.

The operators of small pilotless UAS cannot comply with these rules as they have been written. However, Legal EZE proposes to operate its UAS at or below an altitude of 500 feet AGL, well below the normal operating altitude of other aircraft. A Visual Observer (VO) will be used to assist the PIC with operations and the avoidance of aircraft and obstacles.

#### **D. 14 CFR. § 91.119: Minimum Safe Altitudes**

Legal EZE requests an exemption from the minimum safe altitude requirements of 14 CFR 91.119 that prescribes the minimum safe altitudes under which aircraft may operate:

- Over any congested area of a city, town, or settlement, or over any open air assembly of persons, an altitude of 1,000 feet above the highest obstacle within a horizontal radius of 2,000 feet of the aircraft.
- Over other than congested areas at an altitude of 500 feet above the surface, except over open water or sparsely populated areas. In those cases, the aircraft may not be operated closer than 500 feet to any person, vessel, vehicle, or structure.

Section 91.119 (d) allows for a helicopter to operate at less than those minimum altitudes when it can be operated "without hazard to persons or property on the surface," provided that "each person operating the helicopter complies with any routes or altitudes specifically prescribed for helicopters by the FAA."

To provide the intended operations, the sUAS is normally operated below 400 feet AGL. Additionally, due to the nature of the proposed operations, the sUAS will maintain a lateral distance of at least 100 feet from inhabited structures, buildings, vehicles, and vessels, and from people not associated with the operation.

Compared to flight normal aircraft, Legal EZE's multi-rotor aircraft weigh a maximum of 55 pounds, and given the lack of flammable fuel, any risk associated with these operations is far less than those that presently exist with conventional aircraft. An equivalent level of safety will be achieved given the size, weight, and speed of the UAS, as well as the location where it is operated.

Legal EZE proposes that:

- A. The UAS will remain clear and give way to all manned aviation operations and activities at all times.

- B. The UAS will not be operated by the PIC from any moving device or vehicle.
- C. All Flight operations will be conducted at least 500 feet from all nonparticipating persons, vessels, vehicles, and structures unless:
  - 1. Barriers or structures are present that sufficiently protect nonparticipating persons from the UA and/or debris in the event of an accident. The operator will ensure that nonparticipating persons remain under such protection. If a situation arises where nonparticipating persons leave such protection and are within 500 feet of the UA, flight operations will cease immediately in a manner ensuring the safety of nonparticipating persons; and
  - 2. The owner/controller of any vessels, vehicles or structures has granted permission for operating closer to those objects and the PIC has made a safety assessment of the risk of operating closer to those objects and determined that it does not present an undue hazard.
- D. All operations will be conducted over private or controlled-access property with permission from the property owner/controller or authorized representative. Permission from property owner/controller or authorized representative will be obtained for each flight to be conducted

Furthermore, by operating at such lower altitudes, the UAS will not interfere with aircraft that are subject to the minimum safe altitude regulations. Finally, the successful safety record of the DJI UAS demonstrates that the UAS can be safely used at these lower altitudes and closer operating environments.

**E. 14 C.F.R. § 91.121: Altimeter Settings**

Legal EZE seeks an exemption from 14 CFR 91.121, which requires a person operating an aircraft to maintain cruising altitude or flight level by reference to an altimeter that is set to the elevation of the departure airport or barometric pressure. An exemption is required because the UAS does not have a barometric altimeter capable of being calibrated or set by the PIC. It has a system that uses a combination of two ultrasonic sensors, a monocular camera, and GPS to determine altitude. (See Operator's Manual attached hereto)

Legal EZE proposes to following the procedures set forth in the Operations Manual for calibration of the GPS compass and operation of the UAS. Legal EZE will confirm the altitude of the launch site shown on the GPS altitude indicator before flight by comparing the reading to the known altitude if practicable. Moreover, the PIC will use the GPS altitude indicator to constantly monitor the UAS's height, thus ensuring operation at safe altitudes.

## **F. 14 CFR 91.151(a): Fuel Requirements for Flight in VFR Conditions**

Legal EZE requests an exemption from 14 CFR § 91.151(a)'s fuel requirements for flight in VFR conditions. Section 91.151 states:

- (a) No person may begin a flight in an airplane under VFR conditions unless (considering wind and forecast weather conditions) there is enough fuel to fly to the first point of intended landing, and assuming normal cruising speed –
  - (1) During the day, to fly after that for at least 25 minutes; or
  - (2) At night, to fly after that for at least 45 minutes.

In order to meet the 30 minutes reserve requirement in 14 CFR 91.151, UAS flights could not be conducted with the UAS' proposed to be operated by Legal EZE. Given the limitations on the UAS's proposed flight area and the location of its proposed operations within a predetermined area, a safety margin based on a reserve amount of battery life is needed.

The batteries powering Legal EZE's UAS' provide between 18-25 minutes of powered flight depending upon which UAS. They each have a battery level warning that will alert the PIC before the battery is discharged to the extent that the UAS cannot be safely returned to the point at which the flight was initiated. The UAS also have a Return to Home (RTH) function which will bring the UAS back to the point at which the flight was initiated if it loses contact with the controller or the battery level becomes critically low. The UAS will return to home at 20 meters AGL and the PIC has the ability to adjust the altitude upon initiating the RTH in order to avoid obstacles.

Legal EZE will not be conducting any sUAS flights at night.

Legal EZE proposes that the PIC will not begin a flight unless (considering wind and forecast weather conditions) there is enough available power for the UA to conduct the intended operation and to operate after that for at least five minutes or with the reserve power recommended by the manufacturer.

## **G. 14 CFR § 91.405(a), 91.407(a)(1), 91.409(a)(2); 91.417(a) and (b): Maintenance Inspections**

Legal EZE also seeks an exemption from the maintenance inspection requirements contained in 14 CFR 91.405(a), 91.407(a)(1), 91.409(a)(2), 91.417(a) and (b). These regulations specify maintenance and inspection standards in reference to 14 CFR Part 43. 14 CFR 91.405(a) (stating that each owner or operator of an aircraft "shall have the aircraft inspected as prescribed in subpart E of this part and shall between required inspections...have discrepancies repaired as prescribed in part 43 of this chapter"). An exemption to these regulations is needed because Part 43 and these sections only apply to aircraft with an airworthiness certificate, which the UAS will not have.

Legal EZE will maintain the UAS as provided in the Operator's Manual, the operator will

ensure that the UAS is in working order prior to initiating flight, perform required maintenance, and keep a log of any maintenance performed. The operator will be responsible for maintaining and inspecting the UAS to ensure that it is in a condition for safe operation prior to every flight.

Prior to each flight, the PIC will conduct a pre-flight inspection and determine the UAS is in a condition for safe flight. The pre-flight inspection must account for all potential discrepancies, e.g. inoperable components, items, or equipment. If the inspection reveals a condition that affects the safe operation of the UAS, the aircraft is prohibited from operating until the necessary maintenance has been performed and the UAS is found to be in a condition for safe flight.

The operator will follow the UAS manufacturer's maintenance, overhaul, replacement, inspection, and life limit requirements for the aircraft and aircraft components.

The operator will comply with all UAS manufacturer safety bulletins.

## **VI. PUBLIC INTEREST**

Granting Legal EZE Technology, Inc. an exemption furthers the public interest. National policy set by Congress favors early integration of UAS into the national airspace in controlled, safe working environments such as those propose in this petition. By lawfully operating its UAS pursuant to FAA policies Legal EZE will help facilitate safe integration of UAS's into mainstream USA in the following areas:

**Training.** To ensure that UAS Operators are properly trained and certified to safely operate they're particular type of UAS aircraft. Also, training will be conducted in the type of operations they will be using their aircraft.

**Movies and Videography.** Whether the shot requires unique views and expansive panning or extreme altitude with radical views, the UAS is designed to hold up under demanding conditions. Because of the autopilot feature with pre-designed mission management and R/C control interrupt, the pilot and camera operator can easily create the ultimate shot with HD video or HD still photos. When working close in on a closed set the hazards to the actors are greatly reduced due to the size of the UAS.

**News Gathering.** Similar to movies and videography, each news assignment may require a completely different shot or view of a scene. With budgets for traditional helicopter use being greatly reduced, the UAS is the perfect solution to allow for easy news gathering for a fraction of the cost. The UAS can and will be operated in a sterile area away from the public, while the traditional helicopter must hovers over persons and property Increasing the danger to individuals.

**Real Estate.** The UAS can be used in all areas of real estate, Including commercial, residential and industrial properties. Using a UAS, real estate professionals can create

promotional videos, photos and unique shots that normal camera aspects cannot capture.

Fire and Rescue. The ability to offer real time HD and IR video facilitates placing personnel and equipment in the right places safely out of harm's way.

Agriculture and Conservation. UAS can aid commercial agriculture, land management and conservation efforts by assessing crops, mapping flood zones, measuring snow pack and more. The UAS can fly pre-saved missions via the fully automated ground station, which allows for time-lapse photos of fields, crops and known land tracts. It also can accurately recreate the same pattern during all seasons, providing invaluable data for land and soil management. Using HD video, HD photos, and IR cameras allows for detailed analysis and recording. With photo rendering software, 3D maps and topography can be used in conjunction with time-lapse photos to create highly detailed maps for erosion, flood mapping and other critical aspects of land management.

Law. UAS can be very helpful in gathering evidence and information useful in a legal setting. Insurance companies have already recognized the potential value of using UAS to assess property damage after accidents and catastrophes and the video and photographs obtained will be very helpful in determining the extent and value of damage during the claims process. UAS can be used to video accident scenes and to define real property boundaries and features. UAS will be instrumental in evidence collection and preservation.

## **VII. Privacy**

Legal EZE will not operate its UAS where there is a reasonable expectation of privacy without permission of the owner/occupier of the property above which the UAS is being operated.

## **VIII. Federal Registry Summary**

Pursuant to 14 CFR Part 11, the following summary is provided for publication in the Federal Register, should it be determined that publication is needed:

Legal EZE Technology, Inc. seeks an exemption from the following rules:

14 CFR Part 61.113 (a) and (b); 14 CFR 91.103; 14 CFR 91.113; 14 CFR 91.119; 14 CFR 91.121; 14 CFR 91.151(a); 14 CFR 91.405(a); 14 CFR 91.407(a)(1); 14 CFR; 91.409(a)(2); 14 CFR 91.417 (a) & (b).

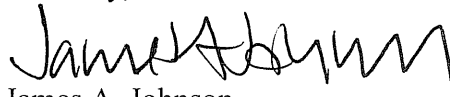
Approval of this exemption request allows Legal EZE to conduct commercial operations with small and lightweight unmanned aerial systems. Legal EZE is in the legal support business and uses UAS, weighing less than 55 pounds and powered by batteries. This eliminates virtually all of that risk given the reduced mass and lack of large amounts of combustible fuel carried on board as compared manned aircraft. The UAS will carry no passengers or crew and,

therefore, will not expose them to the risks associated with manned aircraft flights.

The operation of this small UAS will provide an equivalent level of safety, supporting the grant of the exemptions requested herein, Including exempting the applicant from the requirements of several regulations and allowing commercial operations. These lightweight UAS's operate at slow speeds, close to the ground, and in a sterile environment. As a result, they are far safer than conventional aerial survey and inspection operations conducted with fixed wing aircraft or helicopters.

Please let me know if you require any additional information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James A. Johnson", with a stylized, cursive script.

James A. Johnson

enc.    DJI Phantom 3 Professional User Manual  
          DJI Phantom 3 Professional Safety Guidelines  
          DJI Inspire 1 User Manual  
          DJI Inspire 1 Safety Guidelines