



Restricting Drones Near Critical Infrastructure Sites

The FAA's proposed rule establishes a process for operators of certain critical infrastructure to petition the FAA to restrict drone operations over their sites for safety and security reasons. We're seeking to balance security needs with economic growth and public interest.

The rule is necessary to address the rapid increase in drone operations and the risks they could pose to sensitive facilities. It aligns with President Trump's Executive Order 14305 on **Restoring Airspace Sovereignty**, and it addresses a provision of the **FAA Extension, Safety and Security Act of 2016**.

Eligible Sites

- Chemical
- Commercial
- Communications
- Critical manufacturing
- Dams
- Defense industrial base
- Emergency services
- Energy
- Financial services
- Food and agriculture
- Government services and facilities
- Healthcare and public health
- Information technology
- Nuclear reactors, materials, and waste
- Transportation systems
- Water and wastewater

To Get a Restriction

Applicants would have to show that the restriction is necessary for aviation safety, protecting people and property on the ground, national security, or homeland security. The FAA would create a website portal where applicants could submit information demonstrating the facility meets the eligibility criteria and that there is a safety or security need for the restriction.

Unmanned Aircraft Flight Restriction (UAFR)

Would have specific vertical and lateral boundaries that limit drone operations within its boundaries. The restriction would not be a physical or electronic barrier.



Types of Unmanned Aircraft Flight Restrictions

- **Standard UAFR:** Limits drone operations to certain operators who meet rigorous safety and security standards.
- **Special UAFR:** Restricts all drone operations unless the FAA and site operator provide express approval.

Standard UAFR Allowed Operations

Aircraft must broadcast Remote ID with limited exceptions and transit through in the shortest amount of time practicable.

Allowed operations will be limited to properly certificated:

- Part 91 operators or Public Aircraft Operations (PAO)
- Part 107 operators
- Part 108 operators
- Part 135 operators
- Part 137 operators

Duration

A full-time UAFR would be in effect 24/7. A part-time UAFR would be in effect 24 hours a day, but for no more than 290 consecutive days annually.

Effective Period

A UAFR would last for 5 years, after which the site operator could apply to renew.

Enforcement and Penalties

The site operator would contact law enforcement if a drone flew in a restricted area. Drones must be equipped with **Remote ID**, which helps the FAA, law enforcement, and other federal agencies locate the control station when a drone appears to be flying unsafely or where it is not allowed to fly. Pilots could face license suspensions, revocations, fines and criminal charges.

The FAA will publish UAFRs here:
FAA UAS Data Delivery System

To Comment on the Proposal

Information on how to comment is on pages 1 and 2 of the Proposed Rule at www.federalregister.gov/d/2026-08943.

