



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

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

August 26, 2015

Exemption No. 12603  
Regulatory Docket No. FAA-2015-1087

Mr. Travis J. Brown  
Chief Operating Officer  
SkyVue Technologies, LLC dba Travis Jay Brown Photography  
912 South Alfred Street  
Alexandria, VA 22314

Dear Mr. Brown:

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 letters dated April 13, 2015, and July 15, 2015, you petitioned the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) on behalf of SkyVue Technologies, LLC dba Travis Jay Brown Photography (hereinafter petitioner or operator) for an exemption. The petitioner requested to operate an unmanned aircraft system (UAS) to conduct aerial photography and survey, fine art and real estate photography, agricultural and construction monitoring, and UAS operator training<sup>1</sup>.

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.

---

<sup>1</sup> The petitioner also requested authority to conduct UAS training. At this time, the FAA is unable to authorize UAS operations for training until a further assessment is completed. When the FAA completes its review, we will proceed accordingly and no further action will be required by the petitioner. However, the petitioner is permitted to train its own pilot in commands and visual observers in accordance with condition no. 14 and the other conditions and limitations in this exemption.

## Airworthiness Certification

The UAS proposed by the petitioner are the DJI Phantom 2 Vision+, DJI Phantom 3, and DJI Inspire 1.

The petitioner requested relief from 14 CFR part 21, *Certification procedures for products and parts, Subpart H—Airworthiness Certificates*. 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 the requested 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>2</sup>. 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.

---

<sup>2</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.

## **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, SkyVue Technologies, LLC dba Travis Jay Brown Photography 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. This exemption is subject to the conditions and limitations listed below.

## **Conditions and Limitations**

In this grant of exemption, SkyVue Technologies, LLC dba Travis Jay Brown Photography 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 Phantom 2 Vision+, DJI Phantom 3, and DJI Inspire 1 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 not 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



April 13, 2015

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

RE: Exemption Request Pursuant to Section 333 of the FAA Modernization and Reform Act of 2012

Dear Sir or Madam:

The subject petition is being submitted without consulting or legal services as SkyVue Technologies, LLC d/b/a Travis Jay Brown Photography is a start-up small business. I also hold a Private Pilot Certificate and Instrument Rating.

Pursuant to Section 333 of the FAA Modernization and Reform Act of 2012 (the Reform Act), and 14 C.F.R. Part 11, SkyVue Technologies, LLC d/b/a Travis Jay Brown Photography wishes to operate small Unmanned Aircraft System (UAS) equipped to conduct aerial photography and survey for various industries and hereby applies for an exemption from the Federal Aviation Regulations (FARs) listed below to allow operation of our UAS commercially in the National Airspace System (NAS) so long as such operations are conducted with and under the conditions outlined herein or as may be established by the FAA as required by Section 333.

The requested exemption would permit SkyVue Technologies, LLC d/b/a Travis Jay Brown Photography to pursue its commercial interests in providing services to consumers interested in aerial photograph using a small, commercial-off-the-shelf (COTS) UAS in the following areas:

- Motion Picture Filming
- Fine Art and Real Estate Photography
- Agricultural and Construction Monitoring
- UAS Operator Training
- Promoting the Safe and Effective Use of Small UAS Technology

SkyVue Technologies, LLC d/b/a Travis Jay Brown Photography UAS operations will only occur in areas approved for use with prior verbal or written consent. Flight operations will not be conducted under any circumstances within the Washington,

DC Special Flight Rules Area (SFRA) or the Washington, DC Flight Restricted Zone (FRZ).

SkyVue Technologies, LLC d/b/a Travis Jay Brown Photography's UAS flights will be piloted by individuals who hold, at a minimum, Private Pilot Certificates and if observers are not qualified pilots, they will be trained by to understand the proper roles of an observer, communication procedures, proper visual scan techniques, operations at non-towered airports, and appropriate sections of the Aeronautical Information Manual (AIM). Proper training and safety is of upmost importance.

Regulations from which the exemption is requested:

14 C.F.R. Part 21  
14 C.F.R. 45.23 (b)  
14 C.F.R. 61.113(a) and (b)  
14 C.F.R. 91.7 (a)  
14 C.F.R. 91.9 (b) (2)  
14 C.F.R. 91.109  
14 C.F.R. 91.119  
14 C.F.R. 91.121  
14 C.F.R. 91.151(a)  
14 C.F.R. 91.203 (a) & (b)  
14 C.F.R. 91.205 (b)  
14 C.F.R. 91.215  
14 C.F.R. (91.401 - 91.417)

### **Unmanned Aircraft System**

SkyVue Technologies, LLC d/b/a Travis Jay Brown Photography requests to operate DJI Phantom 2 Vision Plus, Phantom 3, and Inspire 1 multi-rotor UAS' equipped with a three-axis gimbaled camera. The UAS weighs less than 25 lbs, have a built-in capability to limit the height the UAS flies above the ground, to limit the radius of the distance it flies from the operator and to exclude it from Class A, B, C and D airspace including a no fly zones. Each system also has the failsafe function of the autopilot system, which means when the communication between the main controller and the transmitter is lost, the system will automatically "return to home" and will land safely. These UAS are considered COTS products and will not be altered or modified in any way.

The petitioner will only operate its UAS in line-of-sight of a pilot and/or observer and will operate at sites that are a safe distance from populated areas. UAS operators will insure that the UAS will create a nuisance or hazard for users of the NAS, the general public, livestock, pets, or wildlife.

When conducting UAS flights within 3 miles of an airport, airport operators will be notified and the UAS operator will give the right-of-way to avoid flying in the proximity of full-scale aircraft.

The maximum flight time for each operational flight will not exceed 60 minutes.

Flights will be terminated at 25% battery power reserve should that occur prior to the 60 minute limit.

The UAS will be programmed so that it will not be operated at an altitude of no more than 600 feet AGL.

The UAS operator will be an FAA licensed airman holding, at a minimum an FAA Private Pilot Certificate.

The UAS proposed by the petitioner weighs less than 55 pounds, including the payload (i.e. camera, lens, and gimbal).

The UAS will operate at speeds not to exceed 55 knots.

Given the small size of the UAS and the restricted environment within which they operate, the proposed UAS operations adhere to the Reform Act's safety requirements.

All UAS operators will be appropriately trained in small UAS operations including familiarization with all applicable regulations and guidance documents; local area charts, current NOTAMS and Aircraft Circulars; Radio Communications Procedures; Human Factors and Crew Resource Management; Basic Small UAS Aerodynamics; Weather factors; Airmanship and Decision-making and Safe Operating Procedures.

SkyVue Technologies, LLC d/b/a Travis Jay Brown Photography requests exemption under Section 333 to enable to operate safe, low-risk commercial small UAV operations for the activities summarized in this request.

Sincerely,



Travis J. Brown  
Chief Operating Officer  
SkyVue Technologies, LLC d/b/a Travis Jay Brown Photography  
Alexandria, VA 22314  
travis@travisjaybrown.com  
(571) 344-3554

Attachments:

- A. Exemption Requests and Equivalent Level of Safety
- B. Maintenance Log
- C. Flight Log

## **ATTACHMENT A**

### **EXEMPTION REQUESTS AND EQUIVALENT LEVEL OF SAFETY**

SkyVue Technologies, LLC d/b/a Travis Jay Brown Photography requests an exemption from the following regulations as well as any additional regulations that may apply to the operation of the UAS:

#### **14 CFR Part 21, Airworthiness Certificates**

This part establishes the procedures for the issuance of an airworthiness certificate. While the FAA continues to work to develop airworthiness standards for Unmanned Aerial Systems, we request an experimental certificate be issued for the DJI Phantom 2 Vision Plus, Phantom 3, and Inspire 1 UAS.

#### **14 CFR 45.23 Display of marks; general and 45.29 Size of marks.**

These regulations provide that each aircraft must display "N" and the aircraft's registration number in letters at least 3 inches high. Additionally, the aircraft must display the word "EXPERIMENTAL" in letters at least 2 inches high near the entrance to the cabin, cockpit, or pilot station. The small UAS does not have an entrance in which the word "EXPERIMENTAL" can be placed, and may not have a registration number assigned to it by the FAA. We propose to achieve an equivalent level of safety by including the word "EXPERIMENTAL" in the placard on the top of the UAS.

#### **14 CFR 61.113 Private pilot privileges and limitations: Pilot in Command and 61.133 Commercial pilot privileges and limitations.**

The regulation provides that no person that holds a Private Pilot certificate may act as Pilot in Command of an aircraft for compensation or hire. Subparagraph (b) allows a private pilot to act as Pilot in Command of an aircraft in connection with any business or employment if: (1) The flight is only incidental to that business or employment; and (2) The aircraft does not carry passengers or property for compensation or hire. Our proposed operations require that the PIC must hold at least a Private Pilot Certificate issued by the FAA and since the aircraft cannot carry passengers or property, we feel we meet the intent of 61.113 Subparagraph (b) even though the intent of this application is to conduct a business.

#### **14 CFR 91.7 Prohibits the Operation of an aircraft without an airworthiness certificate.**

As no such certificate will be applicable in the form contemplated by the FARs, this Regulation is inapplicable.

#### **14 CFR 91.9 Civil aircraft flight manual, marking, and placard requirements.**

This regulation provides that no person may operate an aircraft unless a current, approved flight manual is in the aircraft. We assume that the intent of this requirement is to ensure that flight manual information is available to the aircrew while operating the aircraft. We request an exemption to this requirement since the aircraft is not only too small to carry documentation, the documentation would not be available to the crew during flight operations. To obtain an equivalent level of safety and meet the intent of 91.9, we propose that a current, approved UAS Flight Manual must be available to the crew at the ground station at all times.

#### **14 CFR 91.109 Flight Instruction; Simulated instrument flight and certain flight tests**

The regulation states "No person may operate a civil aircraft that is being used for flight instruction unless that aircraft has fully functioning dual controls." The UAS System ground-based control station consists of a small hand-held radio transmitter and while it does not offer a second set of "controls", both the student and instructor can, and will, operate the single set of controls simultaneously. With both student and instructor having "hands-on" the controls during flight, we feel that this technique meets the intent 91.109 and provides an equivalent level of safety.

#### **14 CFR 91.119 Minimum safe altitudes: General.**

The regulation states that over sparsely populated areas the aircraft cannot be operated closer than 500 feet to any person, vessel, vehicle, or structure. Since the typical mission of the UAS would be photography or survey of persons, vessels, vehicles or structures it would be necessary to operate closer than 500 feet to the items listed. Operations will only be flown over property or persons where permission has been obtained either verbally or in writing. The aircraft will be operated at a low altitude allowing, if there is a loss of propulsion, an emergency landing without undue hazard to persons or property on the surface. Therefore we maintain that due to the small size of the UAS, the hazard to persons, vehicles and structures is minimal compared to manned aircraft, which should be considered in granting the exemption.

#### **14 CFR 91.121 Altimeter settings.**

The regulation requires that aircraft shall maintain cruising altitudes by reference to an altimeter setting available within 100 NM of the aircraft. The UAS will always fly below 600 feet AGL and will not need to maintain cruising altitudes in order to prevent conflict with other aircraft. An AGL altimeter measurement above the takeoff point is transmitted via radio from the UAS on-board computer to the display screen held by the UAS operator, providing a constantly updated AGL readout.

#### **14 CFR 91.151 Fuel requirements for flight in VFR conditions.**

The regulation provides that no person may begin a flight in an airplane under day-VFR conditions unless there is enough fuel to fly to the first point of intended landing and to fly after that for at least 30 minutes. We feel the intention of this paragraph is to provide an energy reserve as a safety buffer for delays to landing. The UAS are battery operated and the maximum duration of flight from a single battery charge is 12-45 (depending on which UAS) minutes with a 20% reserve. Since the aircraft will never fly more than 1/2 NM from the point of intended landing, a full battery charge at launch will ensure that we meet the reserve energy requirement of this paragraph. We also request exemption from the 30 min reserve and ask that our reserve will be to fly the mission to the point of intended landing and have at least a 20% battery reserve after that.

#### **14 CFR 91.203(a) & (b) Civil aircraft: Certifications required.**

The regulation provides that an airworthiness certificate, with the registration number assigned to the aircraft and a registration certificate must be aboard the aircraft. Additionally, subparagraph (b) provides that the airworthiness certificate be "displayed at the cabin or cockpit entrance so that it is legible to passengers or crew." A small UAS is too small to carry documentation, does not have an entrance, and is not capable of carrying passengers or crew. To obtain an equivalent level of safety and meet the intent of 91.203, we propose that documents deemed appropriate for this aircraft by the FAA will be collocated with the crew at the ground control station and available for inspection upon request. In order to identify the aircraft, we propose that the information found on airworthiness and registration certificates be permanently affixed to the aircraft via placard containing the following information plus the word "EXPERIMENTAL" to satisfy the requirement of 14 CFR 45.23.

#### **14 CFR Subpart E (91.401- 91.417) - Maintenance, Preventive Maintenance, Alterations**

The regulation provides that the operator is primarily responsible for maintaining the aircraft in an airworthy condition, including compliance with part 39 and 43. Paragraphs 91.407 and 91.409 require that the aircraft be "approved for return to service by a person authorized under 43.7" after maintenance and inspection. It is our intention that the PIC perform maintenance and inspection of the aircraft and "be authorized to approve the aircraft for return to service." The UAS operator will ensure that the aircraft is in an airworthy condition prior to every flight and in addition, conduct detailed inspections after every two hours of flight. Maintenance performed by the UAS operator is limited to repairing small cracks, replacing a propeller, checking electrical and updating software and firmware for the on-board computer. All other maintenance will be performed by the manufacturer or their designated repair facility. The UAS operator will document work performed in accordance with 91.417 in the attached Maintenance Log.

## ATTACHMENT B

### MAINTENANCE LOG

**MODEL:** \_\_\_\_\_ **SERIAL NUMBER:** \_\_\_\_\_

[illegible]

## ATTACHMENT B

## FLIGHT LOG

[illegible]



July 15, 2015

Ms. Brenda Robeson  
Program Analyst  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
Federal Aviation Administration  
800 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, DC 20591

RE: Exemption from Title 14, Code of Federal Regulations (14 CFR)

In a letter date July 8, 2015 the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) requested that I provide additional information in order to comply with the requirements of § 11.81. The exemption request is described in detail on the public docket (No. FAA-2015-1087). The letter requested that provide the following additional information:

- The reasons why granting the request would be in the public interest; that is, how it would benefit the public as a whole.
- Any additional information, views or arguments available to support your request.

In response to the FAA's request I am providing the following information:

Aerial photography, as described in my exemption request, has existed for a long period of time utilizing manned fixed-wing and rotor-wing aircraft. For the small business or private individual the expense of fixed-wing and rotor-wing aircraft is cost prohibitive. For the past decade the operating cost of fixed-wing and rotor-wing aircraft has skyrocketed. This is primarily due to increased fuel and insurance costs. This high cost has prevented small business and/or private individuals for utilizing manned aircraft of aerial photography for tasks such as marketing, survey and fine art purposes.

Additionally the use of manned fixed-wing and rotor-wing aircraft carries a higher element of risk than small-unmanned aircraft systems. A catastrophic crash of a manned fixed-wing and rotor-wing aircraft often results in loss of life and significant property damage. Small-unmanned aircraft systems pose a significantly lower risk due to size, speed, the nonexistence of flammable fuel and their unmanned nature. Small-unmanned aircraft systems also reduce environmental impacts such as reduced emissions and noise.

Please contact me should you require further information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Travis J. Brown". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Travis J. Brown

Chief Operating Officer

SkyVue Technologies, LLC d/b/a Travis Jay Brown Photography

912 S. Alfred Street

Alexandria, VA 22314