

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION**CERTIFICATE OF WAIVER OR AUTHORIZATION**

ISSUED TO

Customs and Border Protection

ADDRESS

1355 Customs Drive  
Building 605  
March ARB, CA 92518

This certificate is issued for the operations specifically described hereinafter. No person shall conduct any operation pursuant to the authority of this certificate except in accordance with the standard and special provisions contained in this certificate, and such other requirements of the Federal Aviation Regulations not specifically waived by this certificate.

## OPERATIONS AUTHORIZED

Operation of the MQ-9 Predator Unmanned Aircraft System (UAS) in:

- (b) (7)(E) airspace under the jurisdiction of (b) (7)(E)
- (b) (7)(E)
- See Special Provisions

LIST OF WAIVED REGULATIONS BY SECTION AND TITLE

## STANDARD PROVISIONS

1. A copy of the application made for this certificate shall be attached and become a part hereof.
2. This certificate shall be presented for inspection upon the request of any authorized representative of the Federal Aviation Administration, or of any State or municipal official charged with the duty of enforcing local laws or regulations.
3. The holder of this certificate shall be responsible for the strict observance of the terms and provisions contained herein.
4. This certificate is nontransferable.

Note-This certificate constitutes a waiver of those Federal rules or regulations specifically referred to above. It does not constitute a waiver of any State law or local ordinance.

## SPECIAL PROVISIONS

Special Provisions are set forth and attached.

This certificate (2009-WSA-127) is effective from December 1, 2010 through November 30, 2011, and is subject to cancellation at any time upon notice by the Administrator or his/her authorized representative.

BY DIRECTION OF THE ADMINISTRATOR


FAA Headquarters, AJV-13

(Region)

Ardyth Williams

(Signature)

November 16, 2010

(Date)

Air Traffic Manager, Unmanned Aircraft Systems

(Title)

**ATTACHMENT to FAA FORM 7711-1**

**Issued To:** United States Customs and Border Protection

**ADDRESS:** 1355 Customs Drive  
Building 605  
March ARB, CA 92518

**Activity:** Operation of the Predator B Unmanned Aircraft System (UAS) in:

- (b) (7)(E) airspace under the jurisdiction of (b) (7)(E)
- (b) (7)(E)
- (b) (7)(E) airspace is depicted in Attachment 1.

**Purpose:** To prescribe UAS operating requirements (outside of restricted and/or warning area airspace) in the National Airspace System (NAS) for the purpose of training and/or operational flights.

**Dates of Use:** This Certificate of Authorization (COA) 2009-WSA-127 is valid from November 18, 2010 through November 17, 2011. This COA supersedes and cancels 2008-WSA-74. Should a renewal become necessary, the proponent shall advise the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), in writing, no later than 60 days prior to the requested effective date.

**General Provisions:**

- The review of this activity is based on our current understanding of UAS operations, and the impact of such operations in the NAS, and therefore should not be considered a precedent for future operations. As changes occur in the UAS industry, or in our understanding of it, there may be changes to the limitations and conditions for similar operations.
- All personnel connected with the UAS operation must comply with the contents of this authorization and its provisions.
- This COA will be reviewed and amended as necessary to conform to changing UAS policy and guidance.

**Safety Provisions:**

Unmanned Aircraft (UA) have no on-board pilot to perform see-and-avoid responsibilities, and therefore, when operating outside of restricted areas, special provisions must be made to ensure an equivalent level of safety exists for operations had a pilot been on board. In accordance with 14 CFR Part 91, General Operating and Flight Rules, Subpart J-Waivers, 91.903, Policy and Procedures, the following provisions provide acceptable mitigation of 14 CFR Part 91.113 and must be complied with:

- For the purpose of see-and-avoid, visual observers must be utilized at all times except in Class A airspace, restricted areas, and warning areas. The observers may either be ground based or in a chase plane. The UA must remain within a lateral distance of no more than 2.5 NM and 3,000 feet vertically from the visual observer. If the chase aircraft is operating more than 100ft above/below and or ½ nm laterally, of the UA, the chase aircraft PIC will advise the controlling ATC facility.
- UAS pilots will ensure there is a safe operating distance between manned and unmanned aircraft at all times in accordance with 14 CFR 91.111, *Operating Near Other Aircraft*, and 14 CFR 91.113, *Right-of-Way Rules*. Additionally, UAS operations are advised to operate well clear of all known manned aircraft operations.
- The dropping or spraying of aircraft stores, or carrying of hazardous materials outside of active Restricted, Prohibited, or Warning Areas is prohibited unless specifically authorized in the Special Provisions of this COA.

#### **Airworthiness Certification Provisions:**

- UA must be shown to be airworthy to conduct flight operations in the NAS.
- Public Use Aircraft must contain one of the following:
  - A civil airworthiness certification from the FAA, or
  - A statement specifying that the Department of Defense Handbook “Airworthiness Certification Criteria” (MIL-HDBK-516), as amended, was used to certify the aircraft or
  - Equivalent method of certification.

#### **Pilot / Observer Provisions:**

- **Pilot Qualifications:** UA pilots interacting with Air Traffic Control (ATC) shall have sufficient expertise to perform that task readily. Pilots must have an understanding of and comply with Federal Aviation Regulations and Military Regulations applicable to the airspace where the UA will operate. Pilots must have in their possession a current (b) (7)(E) airman medical certificate that has been issued under 14 CFR 67, Medical Standards and Certification, or a military equivalent. 14 CFR 91.17, Alcohol or Drugs, applies to UA pilots.
- Aircraft and Operations Requirements:
  - Flight Below 18,000 Feet Mean Sea Level (MSL).
    - UA operations below 18,000 feet MSL in any airspace generally accessible to aircraft flying in accordance with visual flight rules (VFR) require visual observers, either airborne or ground-based. Use of ATC radar alone does not constitute sufficient collision risk mitigation in airspace where uncooperative airborne operations may be conducted.
  - Flights At or Above 18,000 Feet Mean Sea Level (MSL)
    - When operating on an instrument ATC clearance, the UA pilot-in-command must ensure the following:
      1. An ATC clearance has been filed, obtained and followed.
      2. The UA is equipped with an operating (b) (7)(E) with altitude encoding (b) (7)(E) preferred) transponder.

3. Positional information shall be provide (b) (7)(E)

- **Observer Qualifications:** Observers must have been provided with sufficient training to communicate clearly to the pilot any turning instructions required to stay clear of conflicting traffic. Observers will receive training on rules and responsibilities described in 14 CFR 91.111, *Operating Near Other Aircraft*, 14 CFR 91.113, *Right-of-Way Rules*, cloud clearance, in-flight visibility, and the pilot controller glossary including standard ATC phraseology and communication. Observers must have in their possession a current (b) (7)(E) airman medical certificate that has been issued under 14 CFR 67, Medical Standards and Certification, or a military equivalent. 14 CFR 91.17, Alcohol or Drugs, applies to UA observers.
- **Pilot-in-Command (PIC) –**
  - **Visual Flight Rules (VFR) as applicable:**
    - The PIC is the person directly responsible for the operation of the UA. The responsibility and authority of the pilot in command as described by 14 CFR 91.3 (or military equivalent), applies to the UAS PIC.
    - The PIC operating a UA in line of sight must pass at a minimum the required knowledge test for a commercial pilot certificate, or military equivalent, as stated in 14 CFR 61.105, and must keep their aeronautical knowledge up to date.
    - There is no intent to suggest that there is any requirement for the UAS PIC to be qualified as a crewmember of a manned aircraft.
    - Pilots flying a UA on other than instrument flight plans beyond line of sight must possess a minimum of a current commercial pilot certificate, or military equivalent in the category and class, as stated in 14 CFR 61.105.
  - **Instrument Flight Rules (IFR) as applicable:**
    - The PIC is the person directly responsible for the operation of the UA. The responsibility and authority of the pilot in command as described by 14 CFR 91.3 (or military equivalent), applies to the UAS PIC.
    - The PIC must be a certified pilot (minimum of commercial pilot) of manned aircraft (FAA or military equivalent) in category and class of aircraft flown.
    - The PIC must also have a current/appropriate instrument rating (manned aircraft, FAA or military equivalent) for the category and class of aircraft flown.
- **Pilot Proficiency – VFR/IFR as applicable:**
  - Pilots will not act as a VFR/ IFR PIC unless they have had three qualified proficiency events within the preceding 90 days.
    - The term “qualified proficiency event” is a UAS-specific term necessary due to the diversity of UAS types and control systems.
    - A qualified proficiency event is an event requiring the pilot to exercise the training and skills unique to the UAS in which proficiency is maintained.

- Pilots will not act as an IFR PIC unless they have had six instrument qualifying events in the preceding six calendar months (an event that requires the PIC to exercise instrument flight skills unique to the UAS).
- **PIC Responsibilities:**
  - Pilots are responsible for a thorough preflight inspection of the UAS. Flight operations will not be undertaken unless the UAS is airworthy. The airworthiness provisions of 14 CFR 91.7, Civil Aircraft Airworthiness, or the military equivalent, apply.
  - One PIC must be designated at all times and is responsible for the safety of the UA and persons and property along the UA flight path.
  - The UAS pilot will be held accountable for controlling their aircraft to the same standards as the pilot of a manned aircraft. The provisions of 14 CFR 91.13, *Careless and Reckless Operation*, apply to UAS pilots.

**Standard Provisions:** These provisions are applicable to all operations unless indicated otherwise in the Special Provisions section.

- The UA PIC will maintain direct two-way communications with ATC and have the ability to maneuver the UA per their instructions, except when remaining in the traffic pattern at (b) (7)(E). The PIC shall comply with all ATC instructions and/or clearances.
- The UA shall operate with an operational mode (b) (7)(E) transponder, with (b) (7)(E) (b) (7)(E) or (b) (7)(E) transponder (preferred) set to an ATC assigned squawk.
- The UA shall operate with (b) (7)(E)
- (b) (7)(E)
- All operations outside of Restricted Areas and (b) (7)(E) airspace (b) (7)(E)
- (b) (7)(E)
- (b) (7)(E)
- (b) (7)(E)
- Operations conducted under VFR rules shall operate at appropriate VFR altitudes for direction of flight (14 CFR 91.159).
- The UA PIC or chase plane PIC (whichever is applicable) will notify ATC of any in flight emergency or aircraft accident as soon as practical.
- The United States Customs and Border Protection, and/or its representatives, is responsible at all times for collision avoidance with non-participating aircraft and the safety of persons or property on the surface with respect to the UAS.

**Special Provisions:**

1. Attachment 1 depicts the approved operating area in blue (coordinates also attached). All operations in the operating area shall be conducted (b) (7)(E) (b) (7)(E) MSL. Approved operations include: (b) (7)(E) operations in the airport traffic patterns (b) (7)(E) and transit between (b) (7)(E) The UA shall remain (b) (7)(E) (b) (7)(E) when conducting local airport traffic pattern operations and (b) (7)(E)

2. In the event of a lost link, the UAS operator (b) (7)(E)

- If the UA is operating between (b) (7)(E)
- If lost link occurs with (b) (7)(E)
- (b) (7)(E)
- When outside (b) (7)(E)
- (b) (7)(E)

3. The operator (b) (7)(E)

4. CBP shall ensure that operations (i.e. lost link emergency profiles, spectrum, etc.) are deconflicted from other UA operators that use the same operations area (see Attachment 1).

5. (b) (7)(E)

6. (b) (7)(E)

7. CBP will ensure that Crew Resource Management (CRM) training is completed by all crew members before flying operational or training missions. The course must consist of initial training, as well as CRM recurrent training during every recurrent training cycle, not to exceed a 12 month interval between initial training and recurrent training or between subsequent recurrent training sessions.

8. Contingency Operations.

a. Lost Link Points (LLP) are (b) (7)(E)

[Redacted text block]

b. A Divert/Contingency Point (DCP) is (b) (7)(E)

[Redacted text block]

c. Flight terminatio (b) (7)(E)

[Redacted text block]

1) The location of the FTP (b) (7)(E)

2) FTPs (b) (7)(E)

[Redacted text block]

(b) (7)(E)

3) CBP is (b) (7)(E)

4) For each FT (b) (7)(E)

d. In the event of a contingency divert or flight (b) (7)(E)

e. In the event of a contingency divert or flight terminatio (b) (7)(E)

**NOTAM:** A (b) (7)(E) Notice to Airman (b) (7)(E)

- Name and Address of pilot filing NOTAM request
- Location, Altitude or the operating Area
- Time and nature of the activity

(b) (7)(E)

**Incident / Accident Reporting Provisions:** The following information is required to document unusual occurrences associated with UAS activities in the NAS.

- The proponent for the COA shall provide the following information to [Donald.E.Grampp@faa.gov](mailto:Donald.E.Grampp@faa.gov) on a monthly/annual basis:
  - Number of flights conducted under this COA.
  - Pilot duty time per flight.
  - Unusual equipment malfunctions (hardware/software).
  - Deviations from ATC instructions.
  - Operational/coordination issues.
  - All periods of loss of link (telemetry, command and/or control)
- The following shall be submitted via email, phone or COA Online (202-385-4542, cell 443-569-1732) to [Donald.E.Grampp@faa.gov](mailto:Donald.E.Grampp@faa.gov) **within 24 hours**:
  - All accidents or incidents involving UAS activities, including lost link.
  - Deviations from any provisions contained in the COA

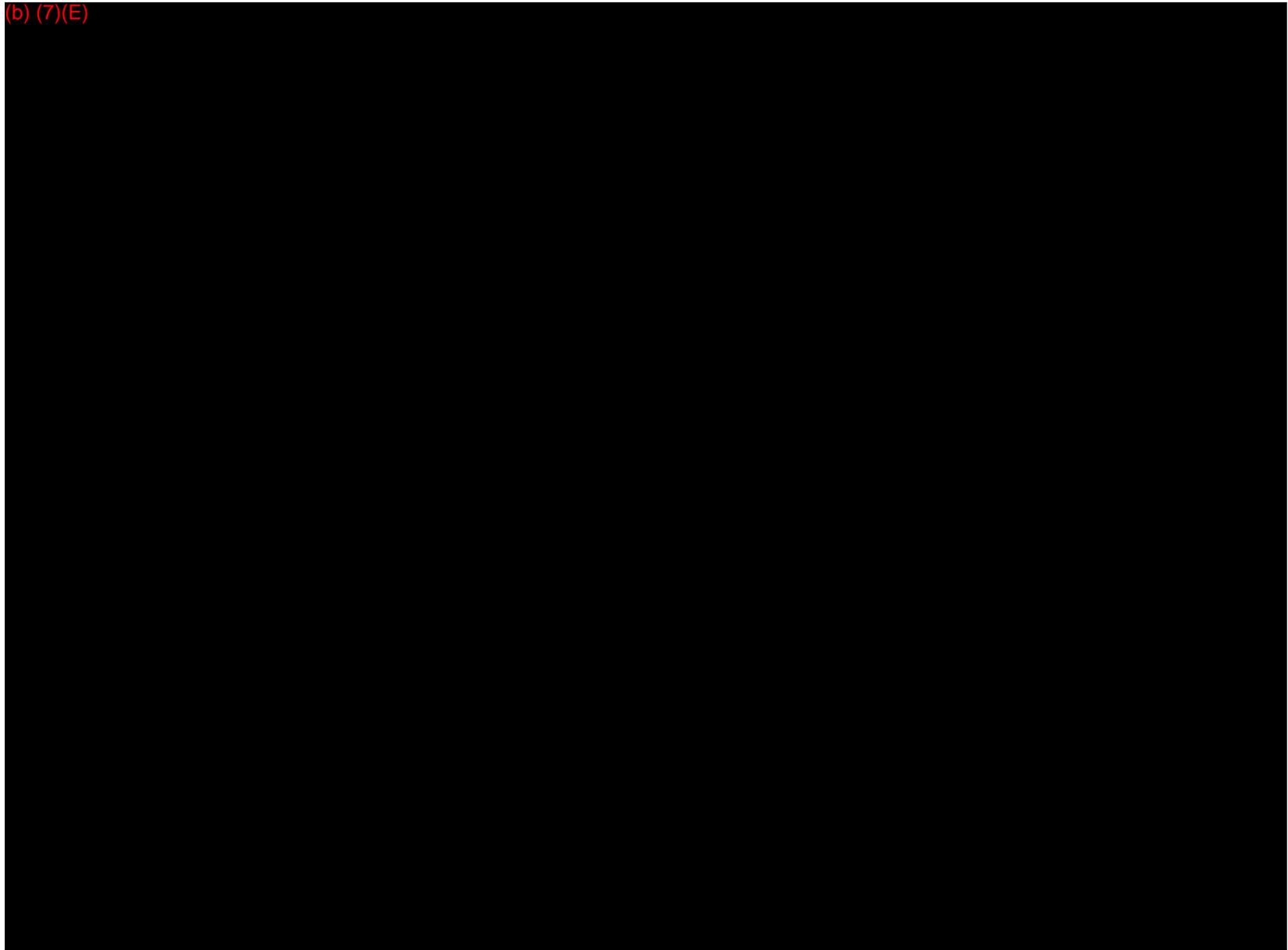
This COA does not, in itself, waive any Federal Aviation Regulation (FAR) nor any state law or local ordinance. Should the proposed operation conflict with any state law or local ordinance, or require permission of local authorities or property owners, it is the responsibility of the United States Customs and Border Protection to resolve the matter.

(b) (7)(E)

The United States Customs and Border Protection is hereby authorized to operate the Predator B Unmanned Aircraft System UAS in the operations area depicted in "Activity" above and Attachment 1 below.

Attachment 1

(b) (7)(E)



**Local Ops Area** (b) (7)(E)

(b) (7)(E)

**Lost Link** (b) (7)(E) **Points**

(b) (7)(E)

(b) (7)(E) **Emergency Mission Predator MQ-9**

Waypoints

(b) (7)(E)

Altitudes

(b) (7)(E)

(b) (7)(E)

(b) (7)(E) **Emergency Mission Predator MQ-9**

(b) (7)(E)

(b) (7)(E)

**ATTACHMENT #2: FLIGHT TERMINATION, LOST LINK, LOST COMMUNICATION PROCEDURES**

Event	Flight	Lost Link	Loss Communications
<p><b>Conditions</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Emergency situation</li> <li>- Unable to sustain flight and return to base</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Emergency situation</li> <li>- Loss of command uplink, downlink, or both links between the ground control station and the UA</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Loss of radio communications between the PIC and ATC (b) (7)(E)</li> </ul>
<p><b>Procedures</b></p>	<p>In the event of Flight Termination, the PIC (b) (7)(E)</p> <p><i>Note As with manned aircraft operations, the UA may not be able to proceed in a controlled fashion to the flight termination location.</i></p> <p>Inform ATC of the following as soon as possible:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- (b) (7)(E)</li> <li>- (b) (7)(E)</li> <li>- (b) (7)(E)</li> <li>- (b) (7)(E)</li> </ul>	<p>In the event of a Lost Link condition, the PIC (b) (7)(E)</p> <p>Inform ATC of the following as soon as possible:</p> <p>(b) (7)(E)</p> <p>Automated UAS Flight Procedures: <i>Note The PIC shall ensure the emergency mission</i></p> <p>(b) (7)(E)</p> <p>(b) (7)(E)</p> <p>(b) (7)(E)</p>	<p>In the event of Lost Radio Communications between the PIC and ATC, the PIC (b) (7)(E)</p> <p>(b) (7)(E)</p>
<p>(b) (7)(E)</p>	<p>(b) (7)(E)</p>	<p>(b) (7)(E)</p>	
<p>(b) (7)(E)</p>	<p>(b) (7)(E)</p>	<p>(b) (7)(E)</p>	