

VIRGINIA POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE AND STATE UNIVERSITY PROTOCOLS GOVERNING THE OPERATION OF UNMANNED AIRCRAFT SYSTEMS ON THE BLACKSBURG CAMPUS

I. Purpose

This document is supplemental to the *Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University Policy Governing the Operation of Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS)* and serves to outline the Protocol for conducting UAS operations on University-controlled property. This protocol document establishes the minimum qualifications to operate; specific flight authorizations may require additional qualifications.

II. Protocol

Blacksburg Campus Protocol

Anyone seeking to operate UAS on the University's Blacksburg campus outside the Netted UAS Facility must have a FAA Remote Pilot certification or meet specific FAA flight authorization qualifications and have completed the VT UAS training program. Prior to operating a UAS on the Blacksburg Campus, the operator must first receive written authorization from the UAS Safety Office to conduct each flight operation or mission. To submit an application requesting authorization to fly a UAS on campus visit the online UAS Flight Authorization system at <https://veoci.com/veoci/p/w/ju4a8y6hmpua?c=52211>. Instructions for completing the application process can be found at <https://drones.ictas.vt.edu/blacksburgcampus.html>. To learn how to complete an FAA Remote Pilot certification or to sign up for the VT UAS Training program please visit the UAS Safety Office web page at <https://drones.ictas.vt.edu/>.

Applications submitted via the online UAS Flight Authorization system will be reviewed by the UAS Safety Office for aviation safety. Subsequently, the UAS Oversight Committee (UASOC) will review applications for administrative and public safety approvals. The UAS Safety Office will issue a final written approval to the applicant upon UASOC approval. Applications must be submitted a minimum of five (5) business days prior to the intended flight date. Complex flight operations may require more time for appropriate review. In order to expedite approval, the UAS Safety Office may perform an initial feasibility check on the proposed flight operation and then distribute the application to the UASOC for parallel review.

Please submit inquiries concerning UAS operations to the UAS Safety Office at uassafety@vt.edu or (540) 231-7484 / 7303.

Any University authorization of UAS operations will not replace or supersede any technical or safety reviews of flight operations (such as reviews relating to aviation safety, qualifications of operators, and feasibility of the operations) as may be required by the FAA. The University is not responsible for an operator's failure to comply with any reviews or requirements that may be imposed by the FAA. Strict compliance by the operator with FAA requirements is necessary for aviation safety.

Checklist for UAS Operations: Blacksburg Campus

- ✓ FAA Pilot Certificate or meet the specific FAA flight authorization qualifications
- ✓ VT UAS Training completion
- ✓ Written Approval from UAS Safety Office
- ✓ Aircraft registration with Virginia Tech Risk Management Office

NOTE: These items must be in possession of the operator when conducting flights under this protocol.

This Protocol has been reviewed and approved by the Virginia Tech Unmanned Aircraft Systems Oversight Committee.