

**ESSENTIAL
STANDARD
no.28**

Working with Drones

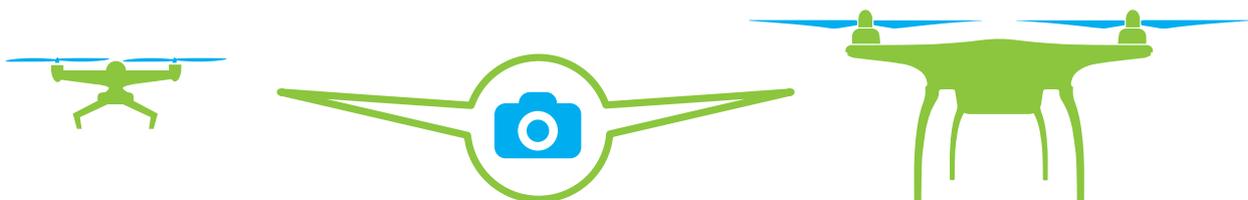


KEY MESSAGES

- Ensure drones are airworthy and the operators are licenced by the Civil Aviation Authority.
- Have the correct permissions in place before flying.
- Operators must be trained and competent to fly drones.
- Operators must have visual line of sight of their drone at all times – don't fly further than 500m horizontally away (from the operator) or higher than 400 feet.
- Never fly near aircraft, helicopters, airports and restricted airspace.
- Always follow the drone manufacture's instruction when flying.
- Drones used for Thames Water company business will require a Thames Water Operational Safety Authorisation (TWOSA) approved by the Thames Water Security Team prior to flight.

1. Introduction

Drones, also known as remotely piloted aircraft systems or unmanned aerial vehicles, come in a variety of shapes and sizes, ranging from small handheld types up to large aircraft, a similar size to airliners. Their usage is rapidly increasing due to their myriad of applications, such as taking still images or video footage using conventional, zoom or even thermal imaging cameras.



Just like any other aircraft, an unmanned aircraft must be flown in a safe manner, both with respect to other aircraft in the air and also to people and properties on the ground.

2. Permissions to Fly a Drone

Before flying a drone, you must obtain the following:

- permission for Commercial Operations from the Civil Aviation Authority
- public liability insurance (minimum of £2 million)
- permission to take off and land from the landowner
- permission from the National Air Traffic Services when flying in any restricted airspace

It is also good practice to notify the National Air Traffic Services, even if it is not a legal requirement (flying sub 7kg drones).



Drones used for Thames Water company business will require a Thames Water Operational Safety Authorisation (TWOSA) approved by the Thames Water Security Team prior to flight.

3. Training and Competence

Operators flying the drone must hold a certificate of competency from a recognised National Qualified Entity approved by the National Air Traffic Services and have passed a flight assessment. Without this, the operator will not be able to obtain the relevant permissions.



4. Planning the Flight

Carry out a **pre-site risk assessment**, taking into account:



- weather



- geographical locations



- airspace



- all necessary permissions

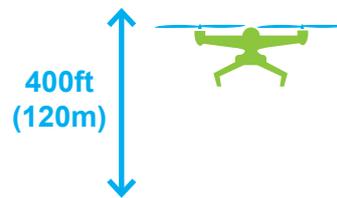
Carry out an **on-site risk assessment** and do not fly if it is unsafe to do so.

To keep safe, always follow the Civil Aviation Authority drone code:

D Don't fly near airports



R Remember to stay below 400ft (120m)



O Observe your drone at all times and stay 150ft (50m) away from people and property



N Never fly near aircraft



E Ensure that you fly safely and legally

