



Drones Regulatory Framework in Southeast Asia - Top 5 Key Q&As

Focus on Bangladesh

NO.	QUESTION	ANSWER
1.	Is there a regulatory framework relating to drones in Bangladesh?	Yes – The government of Bangladesh has recently published the Drone Registration and Aviation Policy 2020 (“ Policy ”) to regulate commercial drone flight activities. The Policy sets out certain requirement on drones, such as operation zones, categories of drones, registration requirements, authorizations, eligibility criteria to operate drones and more. The Policy also sets out the penalties for violations of its provisions.
2.	Is there a difference between recreational and commercial uses of a drone in Bangladesh?	Yes – There is a difference between recreational and commercial usage of drones in Bangladesh. Under the Policy, there are four different categories of drones where ‘Category A’ concerns the recreational usage of drones. If used for commercial purposes, drones must be registered with the Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh (“ CAAB ”). However, if drones under ‘Category A’ are capable of flying at an altitude above 30.48 metres and weigh more than 5 kilograms, then they must also be registered with the CAAB.
3.	<p>If the answer to 1. is yes, please describe shortly if/how the points below are regulated.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Importation of a drone. b) Registration of a drone. c) Approval of frequency use of a drone. d) Approval of pilot/operator of a drone. e) Areas where drones can/cannot be flown. f) Penalties in case of non-compliance with the applicable regulations. 	<p>Importation of a drone. Drones must be imported in accordance with the Import Policy Orders 2015-2018 issued by the Ministry of Commerce of Bangladesh. A ‘no objection certificate’ from the Ministry of Defence is required in cases where drones (or spare parts thereof) weighing more than 5 kilograms are imported.</p> <p>Registration of a drone. There is a prescribed application form that must be used when registering a drone (under ‘Categories B and C’) with the CAAB, ‘Category D’ referring to drones used by the State and armed forces of the State. The CAAB will assess the application and (if satisfactory) issue a registration/identification number for the drone.</p> <p>Approval of frequency use of a drone. The government has laid out three different zones (green, yellow and red) for the flying of drones. No permission is required to fly a drone in a green zone. Prior authorization is required from the relevant authority to operate drones in yellow and red zones. According to the Policy, drones being flown in green zones must maintain a distance of at least 3 kilometres from any airport and a maximum altitude of 15.24 metres. Additionally, if the distance is at least 5 kilometres from any airport, drones may be operated at a maximum altitude of 30.48 metres. The yellow zones cover restricted areas, military areas along with densely populated or congested areas. The red zones are strictly prohibited areas, dangerous areas, airports, key point installations (“KPIs”) and special KPIs as identified by the government.</p>

NO.	QUESTION	ANSWER
		<p>Approval of drone pilots/operators. Pursuant to the Policy, a ‘drone operator certificate’ from the CAAB is required to operate drones in Bangladesh. The operator must be 18 years’ of age or above, fully familiarized with aviation-related matters relevant to the safe operation of drones and aware of aviation rules, regulations and practices in Bangladesh as periodically issued by the CAAB.</p> <p>Areas where drones can/cannot be flown. See above.</p> <p>Penalties in case of non-compliance with the applicable regulations. Violations of the Policy may be subject to penalties under the Penal Code 1860 and Civil Aviation Act 2017. Such penalties may include fines and/or terms of imprisonment.</p>
4.	If the answer to 1. is no, please confirm whether there is any plan for the authorities to implement such regulatory framework.	N/A.
5.	If the answer to 1. is no, please confirm whether there are any relevant unwritten policies in Bangladesh in respect of the use of drones.	N/A.

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