

Remotely Piloted Aircraft (RPA) for commercial use – under 2kg



As 29th September 2016, resulting from amendments to the Civil Aviation Safety Regulations Part 101, CASA will be lessening the requirements for those commercial operators wanting to fly a very small remotely piloted aircraft (RPA) with a gross take-off weight less than two kilograms. RPAs like the DJI Phantom 3 or 4 which both have a gross weight capacity under 2000g will fit the category; while others including the heavier Inspire 1 will be excluded. Previously, commercial use, regardless of aircraft weight, needed a remotely piloted aircraft operator's certificate (ReOC) from CASA. (Until the 29th September 2016 this is still the case!)

These changes will, to a very limited degree, open the door to the greater use of RPAs for inspection, auditing, surveying and basic photography. Currently insurance for operating a RPA, without a ReOC, is almost impossible; however as the legal status of the commercial operation of very small RPAs changes there is a growing expectation that the insurance industry will pro-actively meet future demand.

Those wishing to commercially fly very small (<2kg) remotely piloted aircraft will need to notify CASA five business days before flying and strictly operate within the defined standard operation conditions. But be aware: In an urban environment the standard operation conditions will significantly limit / restrict the true use and effectiveness of these lighter RPAs.

contact.us@karza.com.au