

UPDATED UK DRONE REGULATIONS: EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2026

For UK Drone Users - Stay Legal, Stay Safe



1. THE 100G RULE: REGISTRATION & IDs (Effective Jan 1, 2026)

FLYER ID	OPERATOR ID	NO ID NEEDED
	250g+ 	<100g (No Camera)
Pass Free Online Theory Test	Label on Aircraft Body	Exempt from registration.
VALID FOR FIVE YEARS	RENEW ANNUALLY	Required for person responsible for drones 250g+ or 100g+ with a camera.

2. DRONE CLASS MARKINGS (UK & EU)

UK CLASS MARKS	EU TRANSITION	LEGACY DRONES
 UK0 UK1 UK2 UK3 UK4 UK5 UK6 From Jan 1, 2026 New drone models on UK market must have UK class mark.	 Recognized until Dec 31, 2027 Current C-marked drones recognized as UK equivalents.	 Drones without class mark. Restrictions based on WEIGHT.

3. THE OPEN CATEGORY: WHERE TO FLY (Low-Risk Leisure & Commercial)

A1 (Over People)	A2 (Near People)	A3 (Far from People)
 <250g (UK0) or UK1/C1 Fly over uninvolved people. NEVER OVER CROWDS.	 UK2/C2 (Up to 4kg) 30m (Regular) 5m (Low-speed) Requires A2 Certificate of Competency. Stay 30m (or 5m in low-speed) from people.	 <25kg 50m (People) 150m (Areas) Stay 50m from people; 150m from residential/commercial/industrial areas.

4. REMOTE ID REQUIREMENTS (Transmit Identity & Location)

MANDATORY START FROM JAN 1, 2026	FULL ROLLOUT BY JAN 1, 2028
 All new drones with UK1, UK2, UK3 labels must transmit Remote ID.	 Required for almost all drones over 100g with a camera, including legacy & privately built.

5. KEY SAFETY RULES FOR EVERY PILOT

HEIGHT LIMIT	VISUAL LINE OF SIGHT (VLOS)
 Never fly higher than 120m (400ft) from surface.	 Must always see drone clearly with your own eyes (no screens) to avoid collisions.
NIGHT FLYING	RESTRICTED ZONES
 Drone MUST HAVE a flashing green light for ground identification.	 CHECK FOR Flight Restriction Zones (FRZ). Flying without permission is illegal.

6. INSURANCE & PRIVACY

INSURANCE	PRIVACY
 OPTIONAL (Hobbyist <20kg)	 MANDATORY (Commercial & Drones ≥20kg) RESPECT PRIVACY Do not record people where they expect privacy (e.g., homes, gardens).

Based on 2026 Regulations. Always Check Latest Guidance. [Infographic Design]