

DRONE GUIDELINES FOR INVERCARGILL

The following rules and guidelines include information from the Civil Aviation Authority and our interpretation of laws about flying drones and other Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs) in New Zealand.

In New Zealand, drone operators are classified as “pilot in command” and drones are classified as aircraft.

The responsibility always falls on the pilot in command and the advice offered here is intended as a general guide – not full coverage of the applicable laws about drone operation.

If in doubt - contact the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA).

This guide applies to both commercial drone operators and those who use them for recreation.

AIRSPACE:

Invercargill and its surrounds are in controlled airspace, as shown in red in the attached map. This airspace is busy with all types of aircraft. There are two options for flying in this airspace, Shielded and Un-Shielded.

The yellow area shown is A “Low Flying Zone”.

No drones can be flown in this area unless the Low Flying Zone has been deactivated by the CAA.

Light Blue areas are four-kilometre radius boundaries of aerodromes. To operate within these zones you need the aerodrome operator’s agreement AND certification from the CAA. You do not need Air Traffic Control (Airshare) approval if flying your drone outside the red, but inside the blue zones.

SHIELDED:

A “shielded operation” is a flight where an aircraft/drone is within 100 metres of an object that’s capable of stopping it, like a building, or trees. In a shielded operation, the aircraft/drone can’t fly higher than the top of that object. A shielded operation allows you to fly within 4km of an aerodrome, controlled and uncontrolled, and at night.

UN-SHIELDED:

Any flight that does not fit the criteria of “shielded” above.

To fly an Un-Shielded operation, inside controlled airspace (the red area) you need:

- Approval from Air Traffic Control. This is done by planning your flight in advance at www.airshare.co.nz. You will receive

a confirmation email if your flight is approved. Next, you will need to call the Invercargill Air Traffic Control Tower before and after your flight.

If inside the red area and also the blue area, then you need:

WITHIN 4KMS OF AN AERODROME (THE BLUE AREAS):

- **A CAA recognised training qualification** - this may be; Part 61 Pilot License, Model Flying NZ Wings Badge (or equivalent) - or be accompanied by someone who holds an appropriate qualification.
- **A Spotter** - someone with you to keep an eye on the surrounding airspace for traffic while you are concentrating on the drone. They can also be of use to keep your landing area free from curious bystanders.
- **Approval from Air Traffic Control** - this is done by planning your flight in advance at www.airshare.co.nz. You will receive a confirmation email if your flight is approved, and then you will need to call the Invercargill Air Traffic Control Tower before and after your flight.

PROPERTY OWNER CONSENT:

Since August 2015, drone operators have been required to gain consent for your flight from either the property owner, occupant or “person in control of the site” for any property that you fly above.

For instance, if you wish to fly from a residential property - let’s say a friend’s house, over the river to take photos of a boat passing by you would need:

- Consent from the property owner or occupant of your friend’s house.
- Consent from the owner or occupier of every house / property under your intended flight path.
- Consent from Invercargill City Council, Parks Department if your intended flight path crosses over any road way, footpath, park, reserve or any other property administered by Invercargill City Council.
- Consent from anyone aboard the boat, or the boat’s owner if you intended to fly directly above it.

That is on top of meeting the Airspace Requirements, listed above.

Liability insurance may be required by some land owners.

KEY RULES:

1. Do not operate an aircraft or drone that weighs 25 kilograms or more, and always ensure that it is safe to operate
2. At all times take all practicable steps to minimise hazards to people, property and other aircraft (i.e. don't do anything hazardous)
3. Only fly in daylight
4. Give way to all crewed aircraft
5. Make sure you can see the drone with your own eyes (e.g. not through binoculars, a monitor or smartphone) to ensure separation from other aircraft (or use a spotter to do this in certain cases)
6. Do not fly your aircraft higher than 120 metres (400 feet) above ground level (unless certain conditions are met)
7. Have knowledge of airspace restrictions that apply in the area you want to operate
8. Do not fly closer than 4km from any aerodrome (unless certain conditions are met)
9. When flying in controlled airspace, obtain an air traffic control clearance issued by Airshare.co.nz
10. Do not fly in special use airspace without the permission of the administering authority of the area (e.g. military operating areas or restricted areas)
11. Get consent from anyone you want to fly above
12. Get the consent of the property owner or person in charge of the area you are wanting to fly above

This list does not substitute for a full reading of the CAA rules

Part 101. You should conduct a thorough assessment of your operation and understand the rules that apply to your operation before deciding whether to operate under Part 101 and 102.

The information above is intended as a guide only for flying drones in the Invercargill area under Part 101 and is subject to change without notification. Persons wanting to operate a Drone in any instance should familiarise themselves with all applicable laws concerning such activities.

USEFUL LINKS:

<https://www.caa.govt.nz/rpas/>

https://www.caa.govt.nz/rules/Rule_Consolidations/Part_101_Consolidation.pdf

<https://www.caa.govt.nz/rules/ACs.htm - AC101-1>

<https://www.airshare.co.nz/>

<http://www.qldc.govt.nz/leisure-and-culture/parks-and-walkways/drones/>

<http://www.rpaskills.com/>

<http://www.modelflyingnz.org/>

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/multirotorsnewzealand/>

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact us via email – parks@icc.govt.nz and we will respond as soon as possible.

The map below of Invercargill shows the low fly zone (yellow), controlled airspace (red) and 4km radius boundaries of aerodromes (blue). Follow this link to get more information and for the ability to zoom in on the area you want to fly over - <https://www.airshare.co.nz/maps>.

KEY TO THE COLOUR CODING ON THE MAP:



The **red transparent areas** are control zones. Control zones are managed by Air Traffic Control and extend down to ground level.



The **green areas** are Military Operating Areas. Permission from Administering Authority is required.



The **blue circled areas** indicate a 4km radius around aerodromes.



The **bright blue areas** are Restricted Areas. Permission from the Administering Authority is required.



The **orange areas** are Low Flying Zones. Drones are not permitted to fly in any Low Flying Zones.

