

Advisory Circular

UNMANNED AIRCRAFT PILOT LICENCE (UAPL)

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GENERAL

Advisory Circulars (ACs) are issued by the Director-General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) from time to time to provide practical guidance or certainty in respect of the statutory requirements for aviation safety. ACs contain information about standards, practices and procedures acceptable to CAAS. An AC may be used, in accordance with section 3C of the Air Navigation Act (Cap. 6) (ANA), to show that compliance with a statutory requirement has been achieved. The revision number of the AC is indicated in parenthesis in the suffix of the AC number.

PURPOSE

This Advisory Circular provides guidance to obtain an Unmanned Aircraft Pilot Licence (UAPL) pursuant to the Air Navigation (101 – Unmanned Aircraft Operations) Regulations 2019 (“ANR-101”).

APPLICABILITY

This AC is applicable to persons interested in obtaining a UAPL.

RELATED REGULATIONS

This AC relates specifically to Part 4 of the ANR-101

RELATED ADVISORY CIRCULARS

AC 101-2-1(1) Permits for Unmanned Aircraft Operations

CANCELLATION

Revision (1) of this AC supersedes revision (0). In this revision, clarifications are made on the UAPL application process, and learning outcomes for UA pilot licence training.

EFFECTIVE DATE

This AC is effective from 1 October 2021.

OTHER REFERENCES

Nil.

1 APPLICABILITY OF UAPL

1.1 A person must not act as an unmanned aircraft (UA) pilot of:

- (a) a UA of any total mass in the course of business or for a purpose that is neither a recreation purpose nor an education purpose; or
- (b) a UA of a total mass exceeding 7 kg for any purpose.

unless the person holds a UAPL that is in force and authorises the person to fly a UA of the class and category corresponding to that UA.

1.2 The UA pilot must be at least 16 years old to hold a UAPL.

2 UAPL CLASSES, CATEGORIES AND RATINGS

2.1 A UAPL authorises a UA pilot to fly a UA of the class and category corresponding to that UA. There are two classes of UAPL and 4 categories of UA within each class.

2.2 A Class A UAPL allows a UA pilot to operate any UA in the corresponding category with total mass that does not exceed 25 kg.

2.3 A Class B UAPL allows a UA pilot to operate specific UA model(s), also referred to as rating, with total mass that exceeds 25 kg. An applicant applying for a Class B UAPL must hold a valid Class A UAPL in the corresponding category as a prerequisite. For example, a person applying for a Class B UAPL to operate a 40kg rotorcraft must hold a valid Class A UAPL in the rotorcraft category first.

2.4 There are 4 categories of UA within each class of UAPL. The categories are as follows:

- (a) Aeroplane
- (b) Rotorcraft
- (c) Powered-lift
- (d) Airship

Note: Rotorcraft category includes helicopters and multi-rotors (e.g. quadcopters, octocopters, etc.).

3 PROCESS OF OBTAINING A CLASS A UAPL

3.1 The process to obtaining a Class A UAPL is as follows:

- (1) Attend training (optional)

The applicant is encouraged to attend a training course conducted by any CAAS-approved UA training and assessment organisations (UATO) before attempting the theory test and practical assessment. The list of UATOs is published on CAAS website at <https://www.caas.gov.sg/public-passengers/unmanned-aircraft/ua-regulatory-requirements/ua-pilot-licence>.

(2) Register for a CAPELS account

The applicant is required to register for an account through the CAPELS website at <https://capels.caas.gov.sg> to obtain the unique CAPELS PID number. The PID number is required for the theory test and practical assessment for identification purposes.

There are two categories of account holders available in CAPELS:

- (i) SingPass account holder will register for an account by logging in with his SingPass.
- (ii) Non-SingPass account holder will register for an account using his email address. Upon registration, the applicant will receive an email containing a link for e-mail verification to complete the account set-up.

(3) Pass UAPL theory test

The applicant needs to achieve a minimum of 75% test score to pass the theory test. The applicant is not allowed to attempt the theory test for more than 2 times within a period of one month. A pass in the theory test is valid for 24 months. Refer to **Appendix 1** for the theory test syllabus.

The theory test can be booked through the website at <https://caas.studyworks.com.sg>. Refer to **Appendix 3** for the fees payable.

(4) Pass practical assessment

A pass in the theory test is required before attempting the practical assessment. The applicant then needs to pass the practical assessment relating to the desired UAPL's class and category, which is conducted by an Authorised Flight Examiner (AFE) under a CAAS-approved UATO, or by the Authority. Refer to **Appendix 2** for the scope of the practical assessment.

The practical assessment can be registered directly with any of the CAAS-approved UATOs. Please note that the assessment fees are made payable directly to the UATOs, and they may vary across different UATOs.

(5) Submit UAPL application

The UAPL application must be submitted through the CAPELS website at <https://capels.caas.gov.sg>. The applicant is required to upload his theory test results and make payment. Refer to **Appendix 3** for the fees payable. As the practical assessment results will be uploaded by the AFE, no further upload is required from the applicant.

The typical processing time for a UAPL application is 10 working days, depending on the completeness of the submission of supporting documents and complexity of the UAPL application. CAAS may contact the applicant for further clarifications. Regardless of the outcome of the application, fees paid are not refundable or transferrable.

(6) View digital licence

Upon grant of the UAPL, the applicant will receive an e-mail that contains instructions to view his digital licences via the SGFlight mobile application. The mobile application can be downloaded at <http://onelink.to/4ar6va>.

- 3.2 Base on the practical assessment result, limitation(s) may be imposed on the UAPL. (e.g. restricted to Multi-rotor UA only, restricted to Multi-rotor UA less than 7kg only, etc.). Limitation(s) can be removed by undergoing a “removal of limitations” check with the UATOs and the applicant does not need to submit any application through CAPELS. Upon successful completion of check, stated limitation(s) will be removed from the UAPL.

4 UAPL VARIATION

- 4.1 A holder of a valid UAPL may at any time apply to the Authority to vary its licence to:
- (a) add or remove a category to the UAPL;
 - (b) add or remove a rating to the UAPL; or
 - (c) modify a condition of the UAPL.
- 4.2 An application to vary a UAPL must:
- (a) be submitted through the CAPELS website at <https://capels.caas.gov.sg>; and
 - (b) be accompanied by the following information;
 - (i) practical assessment results of the applicant (uploaded to CAPELS by the AFE and tagged to the applicant) if the application is to add a Class A category to the UAPL; or
 - (ii) documents (see paragraph 4.4) evidencing that the applicant has satisfied all the requirements for the corresponding category in Class A if the application is to add a rating in Class B.
- 4.3 An applicant can apply to add a specific UA model(s) in Class B if he holds a valid Class A UAPL in the corresponding category(s). As an illustration, a holder of a Class A UAPL which qualifies the holder to operate only rotorcraft will not be allowed to vary his licence to add a rating in Class B to include – Aeroplanes, Powered-lift, or Airship categories as he has not satisfied the requirements for the corresponding category in Class A.
- 4.4 In addition, before applying for a Class B UAPL, the applicant should ensure that the specific UA model(s) should be already listed in a valid Operator Permit or in the process of assessment by the Authority under an ongoing Operator Permit application. The applicant must also provide supporting evidence of competency in operating the specific UA model(s) through CAPELS. Evidence of pilot competency includes, but not limited to, relevant training from the original equipment manufacturer (OEM) or Operator Permit holder whom the applicant is being engaged or employed.

5 PROFICIENCY CHECK

- 5.1 All UAPL holders must pass a proficiency check conducted by an AFE from an approved UATO. The check must be completed at least once every 4 years from the date on which the category was specified on the UAPL.
- 5.2 For Class A UAPL holders, a failure to complete a proficiency check will lead to the expiry of the UAPL in respect of each Class A category specified in the licence.

- 5.3 For Class B UAPL holders, in addition to the proficiency check stated in paragraph 5.1, a refresher training, in respect of each rating stated in Class B, is required to be completed at least once a year. The refresher training can be conducted by a UATO or an Operator Permit holder by whom the holder of the UAPL is employed or engaged. Failure to complete the proficiency check or refresher training will lead to the expiry of the UAPL in respect of the rating specified in the licence.
- 5.4 Documents evidencing the completion of Class B refresher training must be provided to the AFE when the UAPL holder undergoes the proficiency check.

APPENDIX 1 UAPL THEORY TEST LEARNING OUTCOMES

The table below shows the knowledge areas, number of questions and duration of theory test.

Knowledge Area	Duration	No. of Questions	Passing Mark
General UAS Knowledge	1.5 hrs	50	75%
Principles of Flight			
Air Law			
Navigation and Meteorology			
Human Factors			
Safety and Operations			

The following table shows the recommended study guides to prepare for the theory test.

Recommended Study Guides
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Air Navigation Act (ANA)2. Air Navigation (101 – Unmanned Aircraft Operations) Regulations3. The Complete Remote Pilot – Aviation Supplies & Academy (ASA) <i>By: Bob Gardner and David Ison</i>4. The Droner's Manual – Aviation Supplies & Academy (ASA) <i>By: Kevin Jenkins</i>

The following tables detail the learning outcomes for each knowledge area.

Syllabus Reference	Learning Outcome
010 00 00	General UAS Knowledge
010 01 00	Introduction to UAS
010 01 01	Define what is an Unmanned Aircraft System (UAS) and Unmanned Aircraft (UA)
010 01 02	Describe the different categories of UA and its operating principles: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Aeroplane - Rotorcraft <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Multi-rotor • Helicopter - Powered-Lift - Airship
010 01 03	Explain the various applications of UAS (e.g. building inspection, agriculture, aerial mapping, surveillance etc.) and compare which category of UA is best suited for each application
010 02 00	UAS Components and Systems
010 02 01	Describe major systems of UAS and how the systems are integrated with each other: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Power and Electrical System - Propulsion System - Flight Control and Navigation System - Command and Control (C2) System - Ground Control System (including different remote controller modes)
010 02 02	Describe the functions of the different UAS components under each major system and compare the differences across the different categories of UA
010 02 03	Describe the operation of the UAS C2 link: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Understand the importance of radio-line-of-sight - Identify the causes of radio interference and loss link
010 02 04	Describe how to recognize and/or identify failed/damaged components (e.g. failed servo, propeller damage, etc.)

Syllabus Reference	Learning Outcome
020 00 00	Principles of Flight
020 01 00	Aerodynamics
020 01 01	Identify the four forces of flight: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Lift - Weight - Thrust - Drag
020 01 02	Describe aerofoil interaction with airflow <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Lift generation / aerodynamic force - Angle of attack (AOA) - Ground effect
020 01 03	Describe aerodynamic stall: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Causes of stalls - Symptoms of stalls - Stall recovery
020 01 04	Describe aerodynamic spin: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Stages of spins - Spin recovery
020 01 05	Describe aerodynamic stability: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Centre of Gravity and Centre of Pressure, and how they affect stability - Static and dynamic stability
020 02 00	Control of Motion (Aeroplane / Rotorcraft / Powered-lift / Airship)
020 02 01	List the axes of motion and describe how an aircraft changes its attitude: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Lateral axis (pitch) - Longitudinal axis (roll) - Vertical axis (yaw)
020 02 02	Describe the function of the main control surfaces and the directions of deflection with respect to the axes of motion: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ailerons - Elevator - Rudder
020 02 03	Understand the purpose of trimming the aircraft

Syllabus Reference	Learning Outcome
030 00 00	Air Law
030 01 00	Air Navigation Act (ANA)
030 01 01	Know the provisions stated in the ANA, including but not limited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Applicability of UAS provisions within the Act - Permit needed for certain overflight by unmanned aircraft - Absolute prohibition of carriage of dangerous materials on unmanned aircraft - Discharge from unmanned aircraft - Dangerous activity involving aircraft - Flying without satisfying safety requirements - Trespassing at aerodromes - Penalty for dangerous flying
030 01 02	State the penalties upon contravening provisions relating to UAS operations of the ANA
030 02 00	Air Navigation (101 – Unmanned Aircraft Operations) Regulations
030 02 01	Know the provisions stated in the ANR-101, including but not limited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Applicability of UAS provisions within the Regulations - Different purposes of UAS operations (recreation, education and non-recreation / non-education purposes) - State who requires UA registration - State who requires an Operator Permit, Class 1 Activity Permit, Class 2 Activity Permit and other permits - State who requires UA Pilot Licence - State who requires UA Basic Training
030 02 02	State the penalties upon contravening provisions relating to UAS operations of the ANR-101
030 03 00	Airspace
030 03 01	Understand how to use onemap.sg to identify the airspace restrictions in Singapore: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Areas within 5km of aerodromes - Danger Areas - Protected Areas under Section 7 Air Navigation Act - Prohibited Areas - Restricted Areas - Temporary Restricted Areas
030 04 00	UA Registration
030 04 01	Understand the UA Registration process
030 04 02	State the requirements for the de-registration of a UA
030 05 00	Permits
030 05 01	Understand the permit application process
030 05 02	Know the UA Operator Permit and Activity Permit conditions that are applicable to the UA pilot
030 06 00	Pilot Competency
030 06 01	State the requirements for the issuance and maintenance of a UAPL
030 06 02	State the associated UAPL classes, categories and ratings
030 06 03	State the responsibilities of a UAPL holder
030 06 04	State the requirements for the issuance of UA Basic Training Certificate

Syllabus Reference	Learning Outcome
040 00 00	Navigation & Meteorology
040 01 00	Navigation
040 01 01	Describe the geographic coordinate system used in basic navigation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - UTM map projection - Latitude and longitude
040 01 02	Describe the concept of Global Navigation Satellite System: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Basic principles of operation and common errors - Factors affecting accuracy of satellite navigation systems
040 01 03	State the examples of navigation systems: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Global Navigation Satellite System <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Global Positioning System (GPS) • Global Orbiting Navigation Satellite System (GLONASS) • BeiDou • Galileo - Other forms of navigation systems <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local area differential GNSS (WADGNSS) • Classical DGNSS • Real Time Kinematics (RTK) • Wide Area Kinematics (WARTK)
040 01 04	Describe other forms of guidance systems, their operating principles and pros/cons: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Infra-red (IR) system - Vision-based system - Ultrasound system - Light Detection and Ranging (LIDAR) system
040 02 00	Meteorology
040 02 01	State atmospheric properties and their effects on UA performance: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Pressure - Temperature - Density - Humidity
040 02 02	Define basic altimetry terms: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Height - Elevation - Altitude - Above Mean Sea Level (AMSL) - Above Ground Level (AGL)
040 02 03	Describe the characteristics of the cloud types: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cumulus (CU) - Cumulonimbus (CB)
040 02 04	Describe the different types of winds and their impact on UA ground speeds during operations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Headwind - Tailwind - Crosswind
040 02 05	Describe how to obtain and interpret reliable weather information: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Meteorological Services Singapore (non-aviation) - Meteorological Terminal Air Report (METAR)

Syllabus Reference	Learning Outcome
050 00 00	Human Factors
050 01 00	Human Factors in Aviation
050 01 01	Understand the SHELL model
050 02 00	Physiology – Vision
050 02 01	Identify visual illusions during UAS operations and how to overcome them: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Autokinesis - Disorientation - Spatial Disorientation
050 02 02	Describe the effects of sun-blindness and how to overcome it
050 02 03	Describe correct visual scanning techniques
050 03 00	Physiology – Medications and Psychoactive Substances
050 03 01	Know the prohibition of use of psychoactive substances during UAS operations
050 03 02	Describe the effects of intoxication during UAS operations
050 03 03	Describe the effects of medications during UAS operations
050 04 00	Psychology – Fatigue
050 04 01	Identify the causes of fatigue
050 04 02	Describe the effects of fatigue on UAS operations
050 04 03	Describe fatigue management techniques
050 05 00	Psychology – Stress
050 05 01	Identify the causes of stress
050 05 02	Describe the effects of stress on UAS operations
050 05 03	Describe stress management techniques

Syllabus Reference	Learning Outcome
060 00 00	Safety & Operations
060 01 00	Operational Risks and Hazards
060 01 01	Define risk and hazard
060 01 02	Identify risk and hazards using the following models: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 5 risk elements (pilot, aircraft, environment, operation, situation) - PAVE model - IMSAFE checklist
060 01 03	Apply the general steps to perform risk assessment
060 02 00	Situation Awareness, Decision Making and Communication
060 02 01	Describe importance of maintaining situation awareness
060 02 02	Describe the importance of making sound aeronautical decisions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 5 decision-making subject areas (pilot, aircraft, environment, operation, situation) - DECIDE model - Three P's
060 02 03	Describe the dangers of Get-Home-Itis and Completion Bias mindsets on UAS operations
060 02 04	Describe crew resource management (CRM) and how it can contribute to safety of UAS operations
060 02 05	Identify the 5 hazardous attitudes that may impact the safety of UAS operations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Anti-authority - Impulsivity - Invulnerability - Macho - Resignation
060 03 00	UAS Operations
060 03 01	List the common phases and describe the checks conducted and/or considerations for each phase: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Flight planning and management considerations - Contingency/Emergency planning considerations - Pre-flight phase - In-flight phase - Post-flight phase
060 03 02	Explain the importance of contingency/emergency procedures and the common handling procedures: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Loss of GPS - Low power - Loss of C2 link - Loss of orientation/control - Stall (aeroplane) - Fly-away
060 03 03	Explain the importance of maintenance: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Know the difference between maintenance and flight checks - Know the importance of following original equipment manufacturer (OEM) guidelines when repairing UAS - Know the importance of keeping a maintenance log

APPENDIX 2 UAPL PRACTICAL ASSESSMENT REQUIREMENTS

Knowledge Area	Learning Outcome
General Knowledge of UAS Functions	<p>The candidate should have adequate knowledge of the operating UAS as a whole which includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Be able to provide an overview of the UAS in general; - Be able to identify major components and explain its functions; and - Be able to identify and explain different indication lights / sounds and flight modes / abnormal conditions.
UAS Checks	<p>The candidate should be proficient with the pre-flight (including assembly) and post-flight checks of the UA, making reference to the Original Equipment Manufacturer (OEM) documents and UATO's training manual (if required).</p>
Flight Manoeuvres via Manual Controls	<p><u>For rotorcraft (multi-rotors) UA:</u></p> <p>The candidate should be able to demonstrate smooth and controlled flying while performing the following manoeuvres without GNSS assistance or assistance from any stabilisation systems:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Precision hovering at different orientations - Straight and level circuits - Climbing and descending circuits - Figure of '8' - Precision landing
	<p><u>For rotorcraft (helicopter) UA:</u></p> <p>The candidate should be able to demonstrate smooth and controlled flying while performing the following manoeuvres without GNSS assistance or assistance from any stabilisation systems:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Precision hovering at different orientations - Straight and level circuits - Precision landing
	<p><u>For aeroplane UA:</u></p> <p>The candidate should be able to demonstrate smooth and controlled flying while performing the following manoeuvres without GNSS assistance or assistance from any stabilisation systems:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Take-off - Straight and upright level flights - Straight and inverted level flights - Figure of '8' - Vertical loop - Precision landing
	<p><u>For powered-lift UA:</u></p> <p>The candidate should be able to demonstrate smooth and controlled flying while performing the following manoeuvres without GNSS assistance or assistance from any stabilisation systems:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Precision hovering at different orientations - Transition from hover to forward flight and vice versa - Straight and level flights - Figure of '8' - Precision landing
	<p><u>For airship UA:</u></p> <p>The candidate should be able to demonstrate smooth and controlled flying while performing the following manoeuvres without GNSS assistance or assistance from any stabilisation systems:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Precision hovering at different orientations - Straight and level circuits - Climbing and descending circuits - Figure of '8' - Precision landing

Knowledge Area	Learning Outcome
Mission Planning and Execution	The candidate should be proficient with mission planning procedures via ground control system and able to execute / modify the mission during flight.
Emergency Procedures	<p><u>For rotorcraft UA:</u></p> <p>The candidate should be able to demonstrate procedures leading to the following manoeuvres in the event of emergencies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Immediate landing - Abort of landing - Emergency stop - Return to home
	<p><u>For aeroplane UA:</u></p> <p>The candidate should be able to demonstrate procedures leading to the following manoeuvres in the event of emergencies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Abort of take-off - Abort of landing - Stall recovery - Immediate landing
	<p><u>For powered-lift UA:</u></p> <p>The candidate should be able to demonstrate procedures leading to the following manoeuvres in the event of emergencies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Immediate landing - Abort of landing - Emergency stop - Return to home
	<p><u>For airship UA:</u></p> <p>The candidate should be able to demonstrate procedures leading to the following manoeuvres in the event of emergencies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Immediate landing - Abort of landing - Emergency stop - Return to home

APPENDIX 3 UAPL FEES

UAPL Application

- 1) The total of the following fees must be paid for an application of a UAPL:
 - a) for the first category specified in the application is \$500.
 - b) for each additional category specified in the application is \$200.
 - c) for each rating in Class B specified in the application is \$200.
- 2) The fee for an application to vary the UAPL to include an additional category/rating is \$200 each.

UAPL Theory Test

- 1) The fee for the UAPL theory test or re-test is \$125.
- 2) There may be an administrative fee chargeable by the examination service provider for the re-scheduling or cancellation of the UAPL theory test. Please contact the service provider for more details.

UAPL Practical Assessment / Proficiency Check

- 1) There is an assessment fee chargeable by the UATOs for the conduct of the practical assessment and proficiency check. Please contact the UATOs for more details.

APPENDIX 4 FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

S/N	Question	Answer
1	I have a UA pilot licence / qualification issued by foreign authorities. Is it possible for a conversion?	No, the conversion of a foreign UA pilot licence is not allowed.
2	Do I need to attend any training course before taking the theory test or practical assessment?	No, it is not mandatory. However, you are strongly encouraged to complete a training programme with any CAAS-approved UATOs to acquire the relevant theoretical knowledge and practical experience before attempting the theory test and practical assessment. The list of UATOs is published on CAAS website at https://www.caas.gov.sg/public-passengers/unmanned-aircraft/ua-regulatory-requirements/ua-pilot-licence .
3	Can I attempt the practical assessment first before passing my theory test?	No, you are required to pass your theory test before attempting any practical assessments. A pass in the theory test is valid for 24 months.
4	When should I apply for my UAPL after I passed both my theory test and practical assessment?	You can submit your UAPL application via CAPELS (https://capels.caas.gov.sg) three days after you have passed your practical assessment. However, please note that your theory test results must still be valid at the point of your UAPL application. A pass in the theory test is valid for 24 months.
5	When should I go for my proficiency check to renew my UAPL?	You are required to pass your proficiency check every 4 years. You should contact any of the CAAS-approved UATOs to arrange for a proficiency check 3 months before your UAPL expires.
6	The QR code in my SGFlight mobile app has expired. What do I do?	As the QR code will expire after 30 days as a security feature, please log in to your CAPELS account and request for a resend of the QR code.