



Abbreviated

UAS Pilots Code

Tools to advance UAS safety and professionalism

The *UAS PILOTS CODE (UASPC)* offers recommendations to advance flight and ground safety, airmanship, and professionalism. It presents a set of recommended practices—a vision of excellence—to help UAS pilots interpret and apply standards and regulations, and to confront the real world challenges to avoid mishaps. It is designed to help UAS pilots develop standard operating procedures, effective risk management, safety management systems, and to encourage UAS pilots to consider themselves aviators and participants in the broader aviation community.

The *UASPC* is a model, not a standard. Three versions are available: the *annotated version* unabridged with extensive endnotes and supplemental materials, the *condensed version* intended for pilot implementation, and this *abbreviated version* containing only the core principles, and introducing and promoting the *UASPC*.

I. General Responsibilities of UAS Pilots

UAS pilots should:

- a. make safety a top priority,
- b. seek excellence in airmanship (*knowledge, skill, ability, and attitude that promote safe and efficient operations*),
- c. adopt sound principles of aeronautical decision-making (ADM) (*the process used by pilots to consistently determine the best course of action in response to the circumstances*), and develop and exercise good judgment,
- d. use sound principles of risk management,
- e. maintain situational awareness (*the accurate perception and understanding of your operation and environment*), and adhere to prudent operating practices,
- f. aspire to professionalism,
- g. act with responsibility, integrity, and courtesy, and
- h. adhere to applicable laws, regulations, and industry guidance.

II. Manned Aircraft and People on the Surface

UAS pilots should:

- a. manage and avoid unnecessary risk to manned aircraft, and to people and property on the surface, and

- b. avoid operations that may alarm or disturb people on the surface or in manned aircraft.

III. Training and Proficiency

UAS pilots should:

- a. participate in regular training to maintain and improve proficiency beyond minimum requirements,
- b. pursue a rigorous, lifelong course of aviation study,
- c. remain vigilant and avoid complacency,
- d. train to recognize and deal effectively with emergencies, and
- e. maintain an accurate log to document your experience and improve future aeronautical decision-making and risk management.

IV. Security and Privacy

UAS pilots should:

- a. take measures to maintain the security of persons and property affected by UAS activities,
- b. remain vigilant and immediately report suspicious, reckless, or illegal UAS activities,
- c. become familiar with current security and privacy rules and best practices,

- d. avoid controlled and special activity/special use airspace except when approved or necessary in an emergency, and
- e. recognize and respect the public's reasonable expectation of privacy.

V. Environmental Issues

UAS pilots should:

- a. recognize and seek to mitigate the environmental impact of UAS operations,
- b. minimize the discharge of fuel, oil, and other chemicals into the environment during refueling, preflight preparations, servicing, and flight operations,
- c. recognize that some UAS components, including batteries, other fuels, and lubricants, may be hazardous and require special handling procedures,
- d. respect and protect environmentally sensitive areas, and
- e. avoid flight over noise-sensitive areas, and comply with applicable noise-abatement procedures.

VI. Use of Technology

UAS pilots should:

- a. become familiar with appropriate UAS and other technologies,
- b. make effective use of technology by integrating technical guidance and solutions into your standard operating procedures,
- c. practice effective system monitoring and ensure you are prepared to revert to manual operations if available,
- d. identify failure modes, and where practicable, test and deploy fault-tolerant or redundant equipment, and
- e. use, and understand the limitations of, position-indicating technologies including detect-and-avoid (DAA), if available and authorized.

VII. ADVANCEMENT OF UAS AVIATION

UAS pilots should:

- a. advance and promote aviation safety as well as adherence to the *UASPC*,
- b. collaborate with or assist organizations that advance UAS aviation and contribute to society at large; encourage other UAS pilots to do so as well,
- c. demonstrate appreciation for aviation professionals and service providers,
- d. advance an aviation culture that values openness, humility, positive attitudes, and the pursuit of personal improvement,
- e. promote ethical behavior within the UAS community, and
- f. mentor new and future UAS pilots.

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The *UASPC* is a joint initiative of the ACI and UAA.

The *UASPC* does not purport to address every safety concern. It is the responsibility of the user of the *UASPC* to establish appropriate safety and health practices and determine the applicability of regulatory limitations prior to use. It is not intended to provide legal advice and must not be relied upon as such.

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All *UASPC* versions are available here:
www.secureav.com/UAS