



# Fly under the Special Rule for Model Aircraft

To fly under the Special Rule for Model Aircraft you must:

- Fly for hobby or recreation ONLY
- Register your model aircraft
- Fly within visual line-of-sight
- Follow community-based safety guidelines and fly within the programming of a nationwide community-based organization
- Fly a drone under 55 lbs. unless certified by a community-based organization
- Never fly near other aircraft
- Notify the airport and air traffic control tower prior to flying within 5 miles of an airport\*
- Never fly near emergency response efforts

For more information about what you can do with a model aircraft, please read [FAA Advisory Circular 91-57A](#)

([www.faa.gov/documentLibrary/media/Advisory\\_Circular/AC\\_91-57A\\_Ch\\_1.pdf](http://www.faa.gov/documentLibrary/media/Advisory_Circular/AC_91-57A_Ch_1.pdf)) (PDF) or read the [Interpretation of the Special Rule for Model Aircraft](#) ([www.faa.gov/uas/media/model\\_aircraft\\_spec\\_rule.pdf](http://www.faa.gov/uas/media/model_aircraft_spec_rule.pdf)) (PDF).

If you do not meet these requirements, you must fly under the FAA's small UAS Rule (part 107).

\*The person flying the model aircraft is responsible for contacting the airport directly. Many phone numbers for airports are available here:

[https://www.faa.gov/air\\_traffic/flight\\_info/aeronav/aero\\_data/Airport\\_Data/](https://www.faa.gov/air_traffic/flight_info/aeronav/aero_data/Airport_Data/)  
([www.faa.gov/air\\_traffic/flight\\_info/aeronav/aero\\_data/Airport\\_Data/](http://www.faa.gov/air_traffic/flight_info/aeronav/aero_data/Airport_Data/))

Many airports have processes for people who fly near their airport, and the model aircraft operator can talk with them directly about how to meet this rule.

## Registration Requirements

The FAA requires you to register as a "modeler" and mark your model aircraft with your registration number in case it is lost or stolen.

Registration costs \$5 and is valid for 3 years.

More information about the registration process is available through [UAS Registration](#).

## Additional Resources

- [Examples of UAS that do and do not require registration \(media/UAS\\_Weights\\_Registration.pdf\)](#) (PDF)
- [Frequently Asked Questions \(www.faa.gov/uas/faqs/\)](http://www.faa.gov/uas/faqs/)
- [Definition of terms in the Special Rule for Model Aircraft \(media/Definitions\\_terms\\_Special\\_Rule\\_for\\_Model\\_Aircraft.pdf\)](#) (PDF)

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