



The Irish Aviation Authority recognises the contribution to safety and standards of Radio Controlled Model Aircraft that MACI has developed over time and effort in Ireland.

With respect to the recently issued (December 2015) Statutory Instrument SI.563 of 2015, Article 7, Small Unmanned Aircraft (Drones), Paragraph (7):

“A person who has charge of the operation of a small unmanned aircraft which has a mass of 4 kilograms or more and less than 25 kilograms, without fuel but including any articles or equipment installed in or attached to the aircraft and including cargo at the commencement of its flight, or as otherwise directed by the Authority, shall not allow such an aircraft to be flown unless that person has successfully undertaken a course of safety training accepted by the Authority.”

The MACI Rules and Safety Code as detailed in MACI documents and available on the MACI website www.maci.ie are acceptable in principle. They reflect an equivalent level of safety training for MACI members Radio Controlled Aircraft of a mass of four (4) kilograms or more and less than 25 kilograms, without fuel but including any articles or equipment installed in or attached to the aircraft and including cargo at the commencement of its flight, while performing flight operations at registered MACI Sites only.

All MACI Sites and pertinent information attached must be listed in the Irish Aeronautical Information Publication (IAIP) and kept current at all times. This is a condition of the Authority’s acceptance of MACI members safety training, which must be delivered and checked by appropriate MACI qualified & current Instructors.

After discussion and consideration of the new Statutory Regulation and its impact on MACI operations, the Authority accepts the following conditions for MACI sites, Ireland. Where required to do so (Control Zone, Military Operating Area, etc.) MACI shall ensure safe and suitable arrangements are made and coordinated with the pertinent Air Traffic Control facility and/or Military Unit before any flight is undertaken by a MACI member or guest.

MACI Sites – Risk Assessment

MACI sites which are located within Class C Airspace must be safety risk assessed.

Procedures developed must be coordinated between appropriate MACI representative(s) of each MACI site and the Air Traffic Control Service / Unit (ATCS) accordingly. The ATCS who have jurisdiction of the Class C Airspace concerned will determine the minimum distance of the MACI site that is acceptable and the maximum allowable height and or altitude of Radio Controlled Aircraft flight operations at such sites. In Class G Airspace (Uncontrolled) MACI Radio Controlled Aircraft may not exceed 400’ above ground level without the explicit written permission from the Flight Operations Department, Safety Regulation Division of the Irish Aviation Authority and where required the Irish Air Corps. When conducting site surveys and audits, and in the interest of standardisation and clarity, MACI site maps/ charts should reflect North orientation, the effected controlled airspace delineated (if any), nearest aerodromes & distance (licensed or unlicensed if known) and the proposed MACI flying area and circuit(s). These sites can be plotted and copied from both Google Earth and Maps and also by reference to Aeronautical Charts.

MACI Sites - Visual Line of Sight (VLOS)

All MACI sites will operate Visual Line of Sight – VLOS in accordance with Statutory Instrument 563/2015 - Maximum 300 metres.

Individual MACI sites may apply to the Authority for Extended Visual Line of Sight (EVLOS) to a maximum EVLOS of 800M. This process and acceptance by the Authority is subject to an individual MACI site survey and risk assessment. The risk assessment should include historical mitigation if any, site suitability, size of SUA including wingspan, aircraft lighting, hazards, Maximum amount of SUA traffic in circuit at same time, rate and frequency of EVLOS usage, emergency procedures, impact on surrounding area, including People, Livestock and Public Access.

MACI Sites – SUA Maximum Flight Operating Height

The maximum height for SUA flight operations at MACI Sites is 400’ or 120metres, In accordance with Statutory Instrument 563 / 2015, Article 6 (5f). This height must be strictly adhered to. Any request for exemption from this rule will not be considered unless accompanied with a detailed survey, risk assessment and written justification basis for consideration.

If and when necessary Small Unmanned Aircraft (SUA) must give right of way to Manned Aircraft.

MACI Visitor Registration Tags:

- Visitors Tags are not available to Irish Residents.
- Visitors Tags are not available to MACI Members.
- One Visitor Tag will be assigned to each visiting SUA for the duration of participation at MACI Site(s) only with a maximum of 25 in circulation.
- A paper copy of the Visitor Tag will be affixed safely to the visiting SUA before each flight at MACI Site(s).
- Paper Copy of Visitor Tag will be returned to MACI after final use.
- MACI will be responsible for Visitor Tag assignment and recording details in MACI Site Log / Journal.
- Recorded details will be sent to the MACI Secretary at the earliest convenience for record.
- Visitor Tags will be randomly assigned and reused throughout the year.
- If requested, MACI will provide data on Visitor Tag usage to the Irish Aviation Authority for safety and statistical purposes only.

The Irish Aviation Authority may cancel, suspend or revoke any of the above conditions if they are found to breach European or National legislation and regulation, or require further safety considerations if raised.

Please disseminate this important information to all MACI members at your earliest convenience

Captain Lou Fine
Flight Operations Inspector
Irish Aviation Authority