

## Law and Regulations for UAS Type Certification (for purpose of reference)

This is an unofficial translation. Only the original Japanese texts of laws and regulations have legal effect, and the translations are to be used solely as reference material to aid in the understanding of Japanese laws and regulations. The Government of Japan shall not be responsible for the accuracy, reliability or currency of the legislative material provided in this Website, or for any consequence resulting from use of the information in this Website. For all purposes of interpreting and applying law to any legal issue or dispute, users should consult the original Japanese texts published in the Official Gazette.

Airworthiness Division, Aviation Safety and Security Department  
Japan Civil Aviation Bureau  
The Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism

(translated on May 20, 2025)

(effective on April 1, 2024)

## **Civil Aeronautics Act**

### **Chapter 11 UAS**

(UAS Type Certification)

#### **Article 132-16**

- (1) The Minister of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism, upon application, grants UAS type certification for the design and manufacturing process of UAS.
- (2) The UAS type certification under the preceding paragraph (hereinafter referred to briefly as “UAS type certification”) is conducted with respect to the type of UAS intended to contribute to the following flights according to the following categories.
  - (i) Class I UAS Type Certification:

Specific flight as specified in Article 132-87, which is granted without taking the access control measures specified in Article 132-85, paragraph (1)
  - (ii) Class II Type Certification:

Specific flight as specified in Article 132-87, which is granted after taking the access control measures specified in Article 132-85, paragraph (1)
- (3) The Minister of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism must, upon an application under the paragraph (1), grant UAS type certification if the minister finds that the UAS of the type described in the application will comply with the safety standards and the standards necessary to ensure uniformity and specified by Order of the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism (hereinafter referred to as "uniformity standards").
- (4) Type certification is granted by issuing an UAS type certificate to the applicant.
- (5) The Minister of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism must, prior to granting the UAS type certification, hear opinions of the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry.
- (6) The Minister of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism specifies the period of validity of UAS type certification.

(Approval of changes to design or manufacturing process)

#### **Article 132-17**

- (1) The holder of an UAS type certification must, when intending to change the type design or manufacturing process of the UAS, obtain approval of the Minister of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism. The same applies when the holder of an UAS

type certification intends to change the type design or manufacturing process of the UAS as the safety standards or uniformity standards have been amended and the UAS of the type which has obtained UAS type certification no longer complies with those standards.

- (2) The Minister of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism must, upon application under the preceding paragraph, grant approval if the Minister finds that the UAS of the type related to the application whose type design or manufacturing process has already been changed will comply with the safety standards and uniformity standards.
- (3) The provisions of paragraph (5) of the preceding article apply mutatis mutandis when the Minister of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism intends to grant the approval under paragraph (1).

(Manufacturing, inspection, etc. of UAS)

#### **Article 132-18**

- (1) The holder of an UAS type certification or approval under paragraph (1) of the preceding Article (hereinafter referred to as "UAS type certification, etc.") must, when manufacturing an UAS of the type which has obtained UAS type certification, etc. , ensure that the UAS conforms to the type related to the UAS type certification, etc.
- (2) The holder of UAS type certification, etc. must inspect each UAS that he/she manufactured and prepare and preserve the inspection records in the way specified by Order of the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism.

(Display)

#### **Article 132-19**

- (1) The holder of UAS type certification, etc. must, when having fulfilled the obligations under the provisions of paragraph (2) of the preceding article with respect to an UAS of the type which has obtained UAS type certification, etc., affix to the UAS a marking as specified by Order of the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism.
- (2) No person must affix a mark referred to in the preceding paragraph or a mark that is confusingly similar to the mark to an UAS, except when affixing a mark in accordance with the provisions of the preceding paragraph.

(Provision of information)

#### **Article 132-20**

- (1) The holder of UAS type certification, etc. must provide users of an UAS of the type

which has obtained UAS type certification, etc. with the technical information which is required for the maintenance of the UAS and specified by Order of the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism, in the way specified by Order of the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism.

(Obligation to report)

**Article 132-21**

- (1) The holder of UAS type certification, etc. must, with respect to an UAS of the type which has obtained UAS type certification, etc., collect information of aircraft accidents (limited to those involving UASs) as provided for by Article 2, paragraph (2) of the Act for Establishment of the Japan Transport Safety Board or other incidents as specified by Order of the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism including by which UASs do not comply with safety standards or are likely to no longer comply with safety standards, and report such information to the Minister of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism, in the way specified by Order of the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism.

(Order for Alteration, Revocation of UAS type certification, etc.)

**Article 132-22**

- (1) The Minister of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism may, when the Minister finds that an UAS of the type which has obtained UAS type certification, etc. does not comply with the safety standards or uniformity standards, order the holder of UAS type certification, etc. to make any changes to the design or manufacturing process necessary to have the UAS comply with the safety standards or uniformity standards.
- (2) The Minister of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism may, when the holder of UAS type certification, etc. violates any order under the provisions of the preceding paragraph, revoke the UAS type certification, etc.

(Delegation to Order of the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism)

**Article 132-23**

- (1) The items related to format, issuance, reissuance and return of an UAS certificate and an UAS type certificate, or other details related to implementation of UAS certification and UAS type certification are stipulated by Order of the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism.

(Prohibited airspace for flying)

**Article 132-85**

- (1) No person must fly an UAS in the following airspaces unless a certified person flies an UAS which has obtained UAS Certification (when flying an UAS without taking access control measures (measures to control the entry of persons other than those flying the UAS and those assisting them under the flight path of the UA as specified in Order of the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism; the same applies below), no person must fly an UAS in the same areas unless a person certified as a Class I UAS pilot flies an UAS which has obtained Class I UAS Certification ).
  - (i) Airspaces specified by Order of the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism as those where the flight of an UAS may affect the safety of aircraft navigation.
  - (ii) Airspaces other than those listed in the preceding paragraph and above areas with a high concentration of people or houses as specified by Order of the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism.
- (2) No person must fly an UAS in the airspace referred to in item 1 of the preceding paragraph or in the airspace referred to in item 2 of the same paragraph (limited to cases where an UAS is flown without taking access control measures or where an UAS whose total weight exceed the wight specified by Order of the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism is flown after taking access control measures) unless a person flies an UAS in accordance with the provisions of the same paragraph and the Minister of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism has granted permission, determining that the operation will be appropriately managed.
- (3) . . . omission . . .

(Measures to be taken when a third party enters)

**Article 132-87**

- (1) A person who flies an UAS must, when making a flight in the airspace specified in any of the items of Article 132-85, paragraph (1), or in any other way than specified in any of the items of the preceding Article, paragraph (2) (hereinafter referred to as a "specified flight") excluding a flight without taking access control measures, and confirming that someone has entered or is likely to enter under the UAS during specified flight, immediately suspend the flight of UAS, change the flight route, land the UAS at a place that is not likely to endanger the safety of aircraft navigation or the safety of people and objects on land and water, or take other necessary measures.

(effective on March 31, 2025)

**The Regulation for Enforcement of the Civil Aeronautics Act  
(Order of the Ministry of Transport No.56 of 1952)**

**Chapter 11 UAS**

(UAS Type certification)

**Article 236-22**

- (1) Any person who intends to apply for UAS type certification specified in paragraph (1) of Article 132-16 of the Act must submit an UAS type certification application to the Minister of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism.
- (2) Any document which must be attached to the written application referred to in the preceding paragraph and the time to submit the document are specified in the following table; provided, however, that the period for submission of such documents for UASs that are currently being manufactured at the time of application must be at the time of application, notwithstanding the time listed in the lower column of the following table.

Attached documents	Period for Submission
(i) Design plan	At the early stage of design
(ii) Design documents	Before commencement of production
(iii) Drawing list	
(iv) Design drawings	
(v) Parts list	
(vi) Manufacturing plan	
(vii) A document showing that the uniformity of the type is ensured	
(viii) Specifications	Before commencement of production
(ix) UAS Flight Manual	
(x) Maintenance Manual for the UAS	
(xi) Documents describing matters necessary for calculating the weight and center of gravity of the UA	
(xii) Other documents containing reference information	

**Article 236-23**

- (1) Inspections to conduct UAS type certification are performed for the design and

manufacturing process of the relevant type of UAS, and current conditions of one UAS pertaining to its design and manufacturing process.

#### **Article 236-24**

- (1) The uniformity standards referred to in paragraph (3) of Article 132-16 of the Act are that the applicant comply with the following requirements.
  - (i) Possession of the following facilities.
    - (a) equipment necessary for the manufacture and inspection of the type of UAS to which the application pertains (including inspection under the provisions of paragraph (2) of Article 132-18 of the Act; hereinafter referred to in this Article as “manufacturing, etc.”).
    - (b) a workplace having the area, lighting, and other facilities necessary for manufacturing, etc.
    - (c) facilities for the appropriate storage of materials, parts, equipment, etc. necessary for manufacturing, etc.
  - (ii) In the case of sharing manufacturing, etc., each organization that carry out work the must appropriately share the manufacturing, etc. and their respective authorities and responsibility are clearly defined.
  - (iii) Personnel capable of properly performing the manufacturing, etc. are appropriately assigned to each organization specified in the preceding item.
  - (iv) Implementation method of work (excluding methods pertaining to a quality control system under the following item) is appropriate for the proper implementation of the manufacturing, etc..
  - (v) Quality control system including the following systems is appropriate for the proper implementation of the manufacturing, etc.;
    - (a) a system relating to the maintenance of facilities referred to in item (i)
    - (b) a system relating to education and training of personnel referred to in item (iii)
    - (c) a system relating to revision of work implementation method referred to in the preceding item
    - (d) a system relating to procurement, administration and operation of technical data
    - (e) a system relating administration of materials, parts and components
    - (f) a system relating to receiving inspection of materials, parts and components, etc. and acceptance inspection, in-process inspection and completion inspection of UAS and components
    - (g) a system relating to process control
    - (h) a system relating to the management of the work provided by the contracted person if it is the service is contracted out

- (i) a system relating to the management of the records of the work
- (j) a system relating to the audits conducted by any organization independent from the organization that provides the work

#### **Article 236-25**

- (1) An UAS which has certificated a Class I UAS Type Certification referred to item (1) in paragraph (2) of Article 132-16 of the Act is deemed to have certificated a Class II UAS Type Certification referred to item (2) in that paragraph.

#### **Article 236-26**

- (1) Format of UAS type certificate under paragraph (4) of Article 132-16 of the Act is the same as Form 29-9.

(Validity period of UAS Type Certification)

#### **Article 236-27**

- (1) Validity period of UAS type certification under paragraph (6) of Article 132-16 of the Act is 3 years.

(Start date of validity period of UAS Type Certification)

#### **Article 236-28**

- (1) Start date of valid period of UAS type certification is the date on which the UAS type certificate pertaining to the UAS type certification is issued; provided, however, that it starts on the following day of expiration date of the valid period, if a new UAS type certificate is issued during the period from one month before the expiration date of the valid period to the expiration date.

(Changes in Type Certification)

#### **Article 236-29**

- (1) A person who intends to obtain an approval referred to in paragraph (1) of Article 132-17 of the Act must submit a written application for type design and manufacturing process change to the Minister of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism, together with an attached document including particulars pertaining to the relevant changes.
- (2) The provisions of paragraph (2) Article 236-22 apply mutandis to the time of submission of the attached document referred to in the preceding paragraph.



**Article 236-30**

- (1) The provisions of Article 236-23 apply mutatis mutandis to the case referred to in the preceding Article.

**Article 236-31**

- (1) An approval referred to in paragraph (1) of Article 132-17 of the Act is granted by issuing a new UAS type certificate.

(Changes to items in the UAS Type Certificate)

**Article 236-32**

- (1) Any person who obtained an approval for UAS type certification or changes to UAS type certification (hereinafter referred to as the "UAS type certification holder") must, when intending to apply for reissue of the UAS type certificate due to a change (limited to those that the Minister of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism deems minor) in the particulars of the UAS type certificate, submit the application for reissuance of UAS type certificate together with a document certifying the reason for the change to the Minister of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism.
- (2) The Minister of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism reissues the UAS type certificate if the minister deems the application is legitimate.

(Inspection methods, etc.)

**Article 236-33**

- (1) Inspections under the provisions referred to in paragraph (6) of Article 132-16 of the Act and the preparation and preservation of inspection records are to be conducted in accordance with the following.
  - (i) To conduct inspections to confirm that individual UAS (hereinafter referred to in this paragraph as "the UAS of an UAS type certification, etc. ") manufactured according to a type of UAS which has certificated UAS type certification, etc., comply with safety standards.
  - (ii) To prepare an inspection procedure manual that can confirm that the UAS of an UAS type certification, etc. being manufactured comply with safety standards, and to ensure that such inspection procedure is followed.
  - (iii) To not ship the UAS of an UAS type certification, etc. until all matters specified in the inspection procedure manual have been completed and it has been confirmed the UAS of an UAS type certification being manufactured complies with the type related to the UAS type certification, etc.
  - (iv) To Prepare the inspection records for each UAS of an UAS type certification, etc.

that includes the following particulars:

- (a) The UAS type certification number, model, and serial number of the UAS inspected
- (b) The date and location of the inspection
- (c) The name of the person who performed the inspection
- (d) The method of inspection
- (e) The results of the inspection
- (v) The inspection records referred to in the preceding paragraph (including the files or magnetic disks in which records have been made pursuant to the provisions of the following paragraph) must be retained for the periods set forth below according to the classifications of certification:
  - (a) Class 1 UAS Type Certification: During the validity period of the UAS type certification and for 1 year after the expiration of the validity period
  - (b) Class 2 UAS Type Certification: During the validity period of the UAS type certification and for 3 years after the expiration of the validity period
- (2) When the inspection record referred to in item 4 of the preceding paragraph is recorded in a file stored on a computer or on a magnetic disk and, if necessary, is clearly displayed on paper using a computer or other equipment, that file or magnetic disk may be substituted for the inspection record referred to in the same item.

(Display)

#### **Article 236-34**

- (1) The marking prescribed by Order of the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism under paragraph (1) of Article 132-19 of the Act must contain the following items:
  - (i) Type certificate number of the UAS
  - (ii) Model of the UAS
  - (iii) Serial number of the UAS
- (2) The marking set under the preceding paragraph must be displayed clearly, using a durable display method on any UAS that has fulfilled the obligations specified in paragraph (2) of Article 132-18 of the Act.

(Information on maintenance of UAS)

#### **Article 236-35**

- (1) The provision of technical information necessary for the maintenance of UAS specified in Article 132-20 of the Act must be provided in accordance with the following provisions.

- (i) This must be provided in a manner that is easily accessible to users.
  - (ii) Information relating to UAS that have certificated Class 1 Type Certification, etc. must be provided in a manner that ensures that users can obtain the information.
  - (iii) When any changes are made to the information provided, measures must be taken to make this information widely known.
- (2) The technical information specified by Order of the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism under Article 132-20 of the Act must be the location, timing and method of implementation of the maintenance work.

(Reporting of situations prescribed by Order of the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism under Article 132-21 of the Act)

**Article 236-36**

- (1) AN UAS type certification holder must establish a system for collecting, organizing, and analyzing information regarding the UAS of the type which has obtained UAS type certification, etc. on the incidents listed in each item of the following Article from users of the UAS.
- (2) An UAS type certification holder must, when having collected, organized and analyzed information pursuant to the provisions of the preceding paragraph, prepare and preserve written or electronic records that state or record the results.
- (3) AN UAS type certification holder must report the following information to the Minister of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism as soon as possible but within ten days of becoming aware of the occurrence of any of the events listed in the following Article regarding an UAS.
- (i) Name or Title
  - (ii) Registration mark, UAS type certificate number, model and serial number of the UAS
  - (iii) Date, time and place when the event to be reported occurred
  - (iv) Summary of the event to be reported
  - (v) Other information of reference
- (4) AN UAS type certification holder must, when finding that the cause of the incident reported pursuant to the provisions of the preceding paragraph lies in the design or manufacturing process, report to the Minister of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism on the necessary remedial measures and submit to the Minister of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism documents containing the particulars necessary for a technical verification of whether the content of the remedial measures is appropriate.

**Article 236-37**

- (1) The incidents specified by Order of the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism Ordinance under Article 132-21 of the Act are the following incidents (limited to those occurring within Japan or those involving UAS flown from vessels or aircraft of Japanese nationality):
- (i) Accidents listed in each item of Article 132-90, paragraph (1) of the Act (limited to those caused or suspected to be caused by the design or manufacturing process)
  - (ii) Incidents specified in Article 132-91 of the Act (limited to those caused or suspected to be caused by the design or manufacturing process)
  - (iii) In addition to those listed in the previous two items, incidents that the Minister of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism recognizes as incidents in which an UAS does not comply with safety standards or is likely to no longer comply with safety standards.