



ECONOMIC IMPACT:

“If the Federal Aviation Administration meets its 2015 deadline for integrating unmanned aircraft systems (UAS) into the national civilian airspace, the total domestic economic impact will reach more than \$82.1 billion between 2015 and 2025 — creating more than 100,000 high-paying jobs in the process.” – Fortune Magazine

OPPORTUNITY:

We all see articles about drones every day, but FAA drone laws can be confusing. Many people are wondering, “How can their company use drones legally?”

As of the release of this white paper, there are currently no national regulations governing the use of drones for commercial applications. These policies are in constant transition and this is not legal advice.

FAA DRONE REGULATIONS:

Drones are now legal for commercial use. Drones are transforming the way industrial companies capture and track their job sites and equipment, dramatically increasing speed, precision, efficiency, and safety. To legally protect your company, without getting left behind technologically, the FAA requires that your team and partners operate under their regulations.

In the [2015 Notice for Proposed Rule Making](#) the FAA recognizes that drones are safe if flown without a private pilot's license if operators follow the basic safety guidelines, including but not limited to:

- Daylight-only operations (Sunrise to sunset)
- Stay clear of manned aircraft / airports.
- Maximum airspeed of 100 mph
- Maximum flight altitude of 400 feet above ground level.
- The unmanned aircraft must remain within visual site of the operator or visual observer.
- No careless or reckless operations.

It is each company's responsibility to be familiar with local, state and federal policy guidance and regulations, and make informed decisions on flight operations.



In the [2015 Notice for Proposed Rule Making](#) the FAA recognizes that **drones are safe if flown without a private pilot's license** as long as operators follow the basic safety guidelines.

FLYING LEGALLY BEFORE FED LAWS:

Even before federal rulings are released, companies can operate commercially under the section 333 exemption which states: By law, any operation in the national airspace requires:

- A certificated and registered aircraft
- A licensed pilot
- Operational approval

[Section 333](#) of the FAA Modernization and Reform Act of 2012 ([FMRA](#)) grants the Secretary of Transportation the authority to determine whether an airworthiness certificate is required for a drone to operate safely in the National Airspace System (NAS). No business can legally operate drones commercially without a 333. Any business with a legitimate 333 will be listed on the FAA's [site](#).

After getting a 333, a Certificate of Authorization (COA) is required. The COA process makes applicable FAA Air Traffic Control facilities aware of proposed UAS operations, and provides the FAA the ability to consider airspace issues unique to UAS operations.



“If you or your contractors are flying drones commercially, the FAA will knock on your door to inspect your business records and shut you down if you aren’t fully compliant. These FAA inspections are only a matter of when, not if.” – Brad Cossin, Pittsburgh, PA Chief Pilot & ATP

FUTURE AND INTERNATIONAL TRENDS:

National FAA drone policies are expected within the next 12-24 months. The US is expected to follow the drone regulations other countries have already developed. Mexico and Brazil allow open commercial drone use. Australia only requires easy attainable Identification for commercial use. New Zealand does not distinguish between personal and commercial use and allows both freely.



These countries are all enjoying the powerful commercial applications of drone technology, and the US has stated that they don’t want to fall behind competitively. Robotics and drones are expected to become as indispensable a force to business over the next few years as computers and the internet are today.

With a 333 exemption, it is **100% legal to use drones for commercial purposes**, as long as all FAA regulations are followed.

Rather than attempt to establish several different internal drone departments, many Fortune 500 industrial companies work with Identified Technologies to **customize the integrated regulatory, technical, and operational drone strategy for their organization’s unique needs.**