



National Resource Sharing Centre

Remotely Piloted Aircraft System (RPAS) Coordinator

Functional Area

Aviation

Core Capability Area

Control

Role Summary

The RPAS coordinator is responsible for managing RPAS resources and coordinating services to support RPAS Operations. This role works cooperatively with the Aircraft Officer ensuring safe aerial operations in partnership with crewed aircraft.

RPAS pilots and operators utilise RPAS platforms as requested by the RPAS Coordinator (delegated from the Incident Controller), in accordance with the local authority for the airspace.

RPAS can be used throughout the prevention, preparation, response, and recovery phases of emergency management.

Key duties

The RPAS Coordinator role as per the Remote Operators Certificate (ReOC) and Civil Aviation Safety Authority (CASA) requirements:

- assists with the development of the air operations plan, as required
- activates and manages remotely piloted aircraft systems
- ensures the safety of all personnel involved in aircraft operations
- ensures persons flying RPAS are appropriately licenced in accordance with the missions being flown
- plans and manages RPAS flight schedules and pilot services
- ensures record keeping systems are in place, according to agency procedures
- identifies facility and service requirements to support RPAS operations/missions
- liaises with appropriate stakeholders (e.g., Air Base Manager, etc)
- briefs persons engaged during operations, including pilots/operators and observers
- maintains a safe and secure area of operations
- ensures completion of documentation including risk assessments
- ensures that RPAS are operated in accordance with legislative requirements
- manages/ensures custody of data according to agency requirements

- ensures synergy when RPAS are operated by several organisations

Reporting Arrangements

Reports to

Aircraft Officer

Direct reports

As determined by the agency.

Role Considerations

AFAC Members increasingly use RPAS for emergency work.

RPAS pilots must at all times adhere to legislation and rules applied by the Civil Aviation Safety Authority (CASA). *It is recommended that those who perform any authorised flying for emergency services should have their licence and radio operators certificate issued by CASA, as matter of safety.*

RPAS pilots are governed by CASA's regulations for all operations. CASA has licence requirements for RPAS pilots in some circumstances. If the agency has their own RPAS, it is considered a commercial entity and must have a Remote Operators Certificate (ReOC) which details all aspects of the agency's operations for RPAS. Jurisdictions may operate under their own ReOC, with additional endorsements (such as Operations at Night [NVLOS] and Indoor Operations) able to be achieved within one's agency.

An RPAS pilot may operate under one of three categories - Recreational, Excluded or Remote Operators Certificate (ReOC). These categories all hold certain restrictions on flight location, RPAS type, and scope of work.

The location at which an RPAS pilot can operate is governed by the category being flown (recreational, excluded or ReOC).

Due to the increased capability to operate in more airspace categories, the preference for emergency response and recovery RPAS operations is to work under a Remote Operators Certificate (ReOC), which requires operators to hold a Remote Pilots Licence (RePL).

There may be some locations where flights could be undertaken in the excluded category. In these situations, the preference is holding a CASA-approved licence.

Recreational operators should not be engaged in emergency operations if possible. In circumstances where people flying an RPAS do not require a licence, there are RPAS safety rules that must be followed.

Coordinators and pilots should hold an Aviation Radio Operator Certificate.

- RPAS Coordinators should hold a CASA-certified RePL.
- Pilots working in under a REOC category must hold a CASA-certified RePL.
- Operators working in other categories must hold relevant certifications required by the jurisdictional authority.

- An RPAS observer should be suitably skilled.

A person performing a RPAS function must hold the relevant certification/statement of attainment for Aviation radio operator and must hold a statement of attainment in:

Remote pilot license:

- CASA Remote Pilot Licence, and
- Aeronautical Radio Operators Certificate (AROC)

RPAS observer:

- An online training session and a brief from the RPAS Pilot In Charge for flights.

RPA pilot (not licenced)

- Operate remotely piloted aircraft in excluded category sub-2kg operations.
- Work safely around aircraft.

Please note: Because CASA regulations regarding the flying of RPAS are evolving, this document does not specify the circumstances where a CASA licence is or is not required.

EMPS Credentials

The following EMPS credentials are relevant to this role:

- None

Fitness or Other Standards

The following fitness or other standards are applied by AFAC member agencies to persons undertaking this role:

- Currency and Proficiency as a RPAS operator within the home agency

Please note, this role type has been developed in tandem with the Fire and Emergency Aviation Training and Assessment Framework (2020), therefore references will focus on fire response. However, in the interests of pursuing an 'all hazards' approach to incident management, it is necessary to highlight that the above is not an exhaustive list, and personnel may undertake these duties in responding to events entirely separate from fire response. To this end, key duties and training may vary depending on unique incidents that these resources are deployed in response to.

Additionally, it is necessary to note that there may arise a need for personnel with experience in a variety of aircraft and qualifications or awareness that are not listed within the NPC. Examples include remotely

piloted aircraft systems (RPAS) and associated skills and experience such as Remote Pilots Licences (RePL), extended visual line of sight (EVLOS), and night visual line of sight (NVLOS).

In so doing, this outcome aims to reflect the descriptive nature of National Position Catalogue templates, serving as a framework from which agencies can springboard into specific events and responses.

References

- *Fire and Emergency Aviation Training and Assessment Framework (2020)*
- *Civil Aviation Safety Regulations 1998*