

A white drone is shown in flight, positioned in the upper center of the frame. It has four rotors and a camera mounted underneath. The background is a large, modern building with a curved, metallic facade that reflects the sky. The entire image is overlaid with a semi-transparent teal filter. The title text is centered on the left side of the image.

THE DRONE REGULATORY ENVIRONMENT

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CERTIFIED FLIGHT CATEGORY

New EU legislation as from January 1st

Including **automated** flights

OPEN

- Low risk
- No operational authorisation or declaration required by operator before start of flight
- VLOS, 25kg MTOM, 120m AGL

Including **BVLOS** & **autonomous** flights

SPECIFIC

- Increased risk
- Operational authorisation required by CA based on SORA
 - or Declaration suffices if Standard Scenario (STS-x)
 - or LUC self-authorisation

Think of Air Taxi's or Cargo over dense urban area

CERTIFIED

- Risk as manned aviation
- Certified operator
- Certified UAS with CoA
- Licensed pilot

Whatever the category:
there are minimum pilot competencies !

EU legislation flight category details

Including automated flights

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CERTIFIED category :



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CERTIFIED category: manned aviation procedures



UAS Certification needed if:

- it is designed to be operated over assemblies of people and characteristic dimension more than 3m
- it is designed for transporting people
- it is designed for transport of dangerous goods, requiring high level of robustness to mitigate risk
- It is used in the 'Specific Category' of operations but the operational authorisation mentions the need for certification (following risk assessment)

Operation falls in category 'Certified' if:

- The UAS is certified because of (a),(b) or (c) AND the operation is conducted in any of the following conditions:
 - **over assemblies of people**
 - **involves transport of people**
 - **involves the carriage of dangerous goods, resulting in high risk in case of accident**
- **OR the risk assessment shows risk cannot be mitigated without certification of the UAS** and the operator, and where needed, without licensing the pilot

CERTIFIED category: manned aviation procedures



CONCLUSION:

- the transport of people is always in the 'certified' category
- flying over assemblies of people with a UAS that has a characteristic dimension of less than 3m may be in the 'specific' category unless the risk assessment and subsequent operational authorisation concludes that it is in the 'certified' category
- the transport of dangerous goods is in the 'certified' category if the payload is not in a crash-protected container, such that there is a high risk for third parties in the case of an accident.

IMPORTANT NOTE:

- The use of a certified UA in the 'specific' category of operation does not imply a transfer of the operation into the 'certified' category.
- However, the use of a certified UA in the 'specific' category should be considered as a risk reduction and/or mitigation measure to be taken in to account in the SORA.

CERTIFIED category: manned aviation procedures



Definition of 'Dangerous goods'

- 'Dangerous goods' should be considered any articles or substances which are capable of posing a hazard to health, safety, property or the environment, and which are listed as dangerous goods in the ICAO Technical Instructions for the Safe Transport of Dangerous Goods by Air (ICAO Doc 9284), known as the 'Technical Instructions', or which are classified as such according to the Technical Instructions.
- articles and substances required to be on board the aircraft for the propulsion of the UAS or for the operation of its equipment, which would be classified as dangerous goods (e.g. fuel), should not be considered as transported dangerous goods as their safety is verified during the design verification of the UAS.
- a clarification has been added in the AMC on the use of a crashworthy container for the transport of dangerous goods in the 'specific' category and on the need to establish and maintain a training programme as required by the ICAO Technical Instructions.