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B3161

# Small Unmanned Aircraft (Amendment) Order 2025

(Made by the Chief Executive in Council under sections 2A and 12 of the Civil Aviation Ordinance (Cap. 448))

#### 1. Commencement

This Order comes into operation on 18 July 2025.

### 2. Small Unmanned Aircraft Order amended

The Small Unmanned Aircraft Order (Cap. 448 sub. leg. G) is amended as set out in sections 3 to 12.

# 3. Section 2 amended (interpretation)

(1) Section 2, definition of *operating requirement*, paragraph (a)—

# Repeal

"16(1)"

#### **Substitute**

"16(1) or (1A)".

(2) Section 2—

# Add in alphabetical order

"category C aircraft (丙類無人機)—see section 3(2)(d);".

# 4. Section 3 amended (small unmanned aircraft and its classification)

(1) Section 3(1)—

Repeal

"25"

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Section 5

#### **Substitute**

"150".

(2) Section 3(2)(b)—

#### Repeal

": and"

Substitute a semicolon.

(3) Section 3(2)(c)—

# Repeal

"exceeds 7 kg at any time during the flight."

#### **Substitute**

"does not exceed 25 kg at all times during the flight but exceeds 7 kg at any time during the flight; and".

(4) After section 3(2)(c)—

#### Add

"(d) a small unmanned aircraft is a category C aircraft in respect of a flight if its weight exceeds 25 kg at any time during the flight.".

# 5. Section 7 amended (application to flight within Hong Kong)

Section 7—

# Repeal subsection (3)

#### Substitute

- "(3) Subsections (1) and (2)—
  - (a) are subject to sections 8, 9 and 10; and
  - (b) have no effect in relation to the scope of application of section 16(1A).".

Section 6

B3165

#### 6. Section 11 amended (basic requirements for operating small unmanned aircraft for flights)

Section 11(1)(g), after "category B aircraft"—

#### Add

"or category C aircraft".

#### 7. Section 12 amended (insurance policy specified for section 11(1)(c))

(1) Section 12(2)(b)—

### Repeal

": or"

Substitute a semicolon.

(2) After section 12(2)(b)—

#### Add

- for a category C aircraft— "(ba)
  - if its weight does not exceed 75 kg at all times during the flight—\$15,000,000; or
  - if its weight exceeds 75 kg at any time during (ii) the flight—\$20,000,000; or".

#### Section 14 amended (duty to keep information recorded by safety 8. system)

(1) After section 14(1)—

#### Add

"(1A) If a small unmanned aircraft is operated for a flight in accordance with a permission granted under section 37, the information recorded by a safety system as required under section 11(1)(d) in connection with the flight—

- (a) must be kept for 6 months beginning on the date on which the flight begins; and
- (b) must be accessible in Hong Kong by an authorized officer.".
- (2) Section 14(2)—

# Repeal

"(1)"

# **Substitute**

"(1) or (1A)".

# 9. Section 16 amended (requirements for operation)

After section 16(1)—

#### Add

"(1A) Moreover, for the purposes of section 15(1), it is also a requirement applicable to a small unmanned aircraft operated for a flight that the flight is wholly within Hong Kong.".

# 10. Section 37 amended (application for permission)

Section 37(1)(a), after "category B aircraft"—

#### Add

"or category C aircraft".

# 11. Section 56 amended (power to require production of documents or records etc.)

Section 56(1)(b) and (2)(b)—

# Repeal

"14(1)"

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0".

Section 12

**Substitute** 

"14(1) or (1A)".

# 12. Schedule amended (prescribed fees)

The Schedule, item 9, column 3, after paragraph (a)—

Add

"(ab) for operating a category C aircraft for a flight

Carmen KONG
Clerk to the Executive Council

# COUNCIL CHAMBER

20 May 2025

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# **Explanatory Note**

The main purpose of this Order is to amend the Small Unmanned Aircraft Order (Cap. 448 sub. leg. G) to introduce a new category of small unmanned aircraft, namely small unmanned aircraft having a weight not exceeding 150 kg but exceeding 25 kg at any time during a flight.

2. This Order also adds a new requirement for operating small unmanned aircraft for a flight, to the effect that, except with a permission granted by the Director-General of Civil Aviation, the flight may only be wholly within Hong Kong.