



Training Bulletin

Los Angeles Port Police

Thomas E. Gazsi, Chief of Police

Enforcement of Unmanned Aircraft Systems

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this Training Bulletin is to provide guidance to Los Angeles Port Police personnel on the enforcement of Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) or "drones" in the Port of Los Angeles (POLA).

As a result of the prevalence and ease of ownership of Unmanned Aircraft Systems or "drones," there has been a significant increase in incidents involving hobbyists operating unmanned powered aircraft over populated or restricted areas. This underscores the need for easily understood UAS enforcement guidelines to ensure the safety and security of the Port.

It is anticipated the proliferation of UAS ownership will continue due to market availability. The lack of regulations regarding purchase and/or ownership will also fuel an increase in the number of law enforcement encounters. The following information will aid personnel when contacting UAS operators in Harbor Department-controlled areas.

Unauthorized and illegal flights within the POLA pose potential risks to tenants, customers, and residents.

DEFINITIONS:

- Unmanned Aircraft shall mean an aircraft, including, but not limited to, an aircraft commonly known as a drone, that is operated without the possibility of direct human intervention from within or on the aircraft.
- Unmanned Aircraft System (UAS) shall mean an Unmanned Aircraft and associated elements, including, but not limited to, any communication links and components that control the Unmanned Aircraft.

LEGAL:

Applicable UAS Los Angeles Municipal Codes (LAMC) enforceable by Los Angeles Port Police:

- LAMC § 63.44(b)(8) – Regulations Affecting Park and Recreation Areas

ENFORCEMENT:

Personnel should take the time to familiarize themselves with these laws and the basic guidelines below:

- Within the Harbor Department properties, there are NO areas set aside for UAS operations.
- No person shall operate any UAS within the City of Los Angeles other than during daylight hours defined as between official sunrise and official sunset for local time.
- No person shall operate any UAS within the City of Los Angeles more than 400 feet above the earth's surface.

Absent a Temporary Use Permit (TEUP), all UAS operators flying within a Harbor Department controlled property and/or waterway is in violation of LAMC § 63.44 (b)(8), a misdemeanor. Officers should consider the public safety implications of operating a UAS over densely populated areas, restricted zones, and/or recreational waterways within the POLA complex.

- When located, UAS operators shall be directed to immediately land the aircraft in a safe manner.
- Los Angeles Port Police personnel should detain and investigate UAS operators when appropriate and safe to do so.
- At a minimum, a Field Interview on the operator should be conducted and documented.
- Operator conduct shall be evaluated and considered when determining what law enforcement action to take.
- If the decision is made to conduct an arrest, the UAS operator must have proper identification in order to be Released From Custody (RFC).
- The UAS and attached equipment shall be booked as evidence.
 - This should include the Micro SD Card. The drone and the card exist as (2) separate line items on a property report.
 - When possible, remove the lithium battery(s) and give it to the owner. The battery(s) is considered a flammable/explosion risk by Los Angeles Police Department property.

A detailed arrest report containing the elements of the crime shall be prepared by the officer. Los Angeles Port Police Training Bulletin, TB10-001, should be referenced regarding the definition of parks and beaches. It also provides examples of the appropriate report verbiage for any LAMC § 63.44 violation.

NOTE: If the UAS is equipped with a camera, absent consent, Los Angeles Port Police personnel may not examine or seize any imagery under U.S. Supreme Court, *Riley v. California*, 134 S. Ct. 2473 (2014). Based on Reasonable Suspicion, a Suspicious Activity Report (SAR) will be completed; the FBI and JRIC shall be notified.

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