



2501 Biel/Bienne
OFCOM; lea

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Frequency usage in the context of drone application

Dear Sir or Madam

The Federal Office of Communications (OFCOM) is writing to inform interested parties of the applicable Swiss regulations governing the command, control and transmission of usage data of drones [also known as Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS), Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems (RPAS)].

OFCOM also refers to corresponding activities that fall under the European regulations regarding the use of frequencies.

Insofar as they contain a radio transmitter and/or receiver, drones constitute radio equipment. They are subject to the Telecommunications Act and fall within OFCOM's area of responsibility as regards frequency regulation issues.

The Federal Office of Civil Aviation (FOCA) is responsible for aviation policy and the supervision of civil aviation in Switzerland, including airspace regulation and the classification of unmanned aircraft (e.g. drones).

OFCOM issues radio licences and permits for the operation of radio equipment and radio networks where their use is subject to licensing or approval. The technical requirements for the use of frequencies are set out in the corresponding technical interface regulations (RIR, Radio Interface Regulations).

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In addition, the radiocommunications equipment must satisfy the legal prerequisites for market access laid down by OFCOM (e.g. regarding provision, selling, hiring, placing on the market).

A key issue is the use of mobile radio frequencies for the provision of mobile telecommunication services to enable the remote operation and data transmission from and to drones.

The use of such frequency resources is limited to the licensees and is their responsibility.

The use of frequencies in mobile communications is generally limited to terrestrial applications.

The extent to which mobile communications frequencies can also be used for controlling, position tracking and payload communication in airspace is currently being examined at European and international level. The initial findings were summarised in a report by the European Conference of Postal and Telecommunications Administrations (CEPT) in mid-2020.

This report specifies which mobile communications frequencies may be used in airspace (up to 10,000m) and applies in principle to all airspace users (including drone radio applications):

The findings of this report have been adopted in an ECC (Electronic Communications Committee) consultation:

[ECC Report 309](#)

The ECC will adopt a decision in summer 2021 based on the aforementioned report and this will also be adopted by Switzerland.

Please refer to the relevant OFCOM internet pages for additional information on drones:

[Particular equipment](#)

[Drones and model aircraft](#)

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions.

Kind regards

Federal Office of Communication



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