



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft  
Confédération suisse  
Confederazione Svizzera  
Confederaziun svizra

Federal Department of the Environment, Transport,  
Energy and Communications DETEC

**Federal Office of Civil Aviation FOCA**  
UAS Authorization and Oversight



# New Drone Regulation

Webinar on the Specific Category

2023-05-02



# Agenda

- Introduction
- Overview & intent of the specific category
- Approval Types: STS, PDRA, SORA, (LUC)
- Use-Cases
  - PDRA S-01
  - SORA: SAIL II
- Outlook
- Other questions from the survey





# How the webinar was build & expectations

- Broad overview on the possible authorization types for your operations
- **Assumption:** Operations cannot take place in the conditions of the OPEN category (due to distances, height, BVLOS, UA without class marking, etc.)
- **Use-cases:** Real applications might be different, and details might make a substantial difference. Slides simplified for exemplification.
- **No "one-size fits all":** Need to discuss your specific operation in detail within the formal application process for Operational Authorization
- **Risk-based approach** == "it depends"

This icon →  shows a link to Guidance Material (help) from FOCA or other authorities

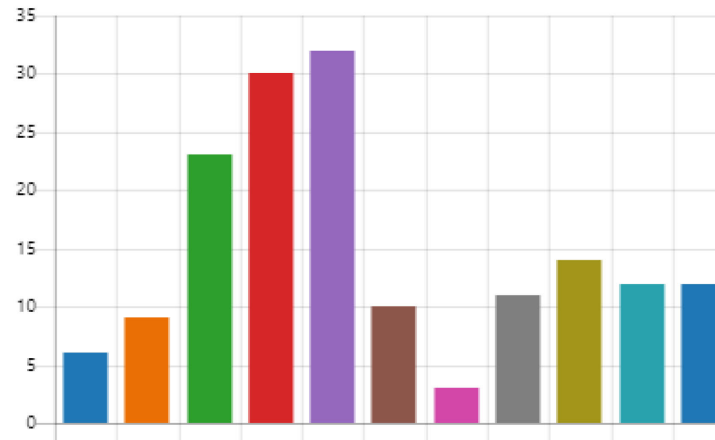


# Introduction: Closed Loop

- Survey results:

## A) Which field(s) of drone industry?

Manufacturing	6
Research	9
Surveying operations	23
Photography / Filming	30
Inspections	32
Agriculture	10
Logistics/Delivery	3
Public Services	11
Consulting	14
Construction	12
Other	12



## B) Which type of approval are you interested in

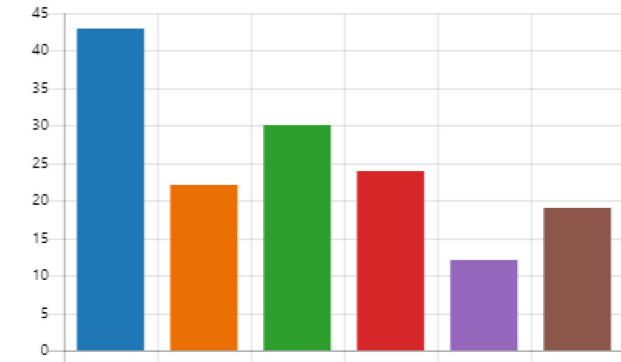
[More Details](#)

STS: Standard Scenarios (CH ...	60
PDRA: Pre-defined Risk Assess...	44
SORA: Specific Operations Ris...	45
LUC: Light UAS Operator Certi...	32



## C) What reason(s) do you need an approval for?

I cannot respect the distance t...	43
I need to fly over crowds	22
I need to fly BVLOS	30
I need to fly higher than 120m...	24
I need to fly a drone > 25kg	12
Other	19



- Cameras and microphones are disabled during presentation
- Slides will be made available after the webinar
- Condensed questions from the survey at the end
- Several answers are already integrated in the core presentation





# Categories of Operation



## OPEN

VLOS  
< 25kg  
< 120m AGL  
Not over crowds

*No authorization needed*



## SPECIFIC

Cannot respect conditions  
from OPEN category

e.g. BVLOS

*FOCA approval needed*



## CERTIFIED

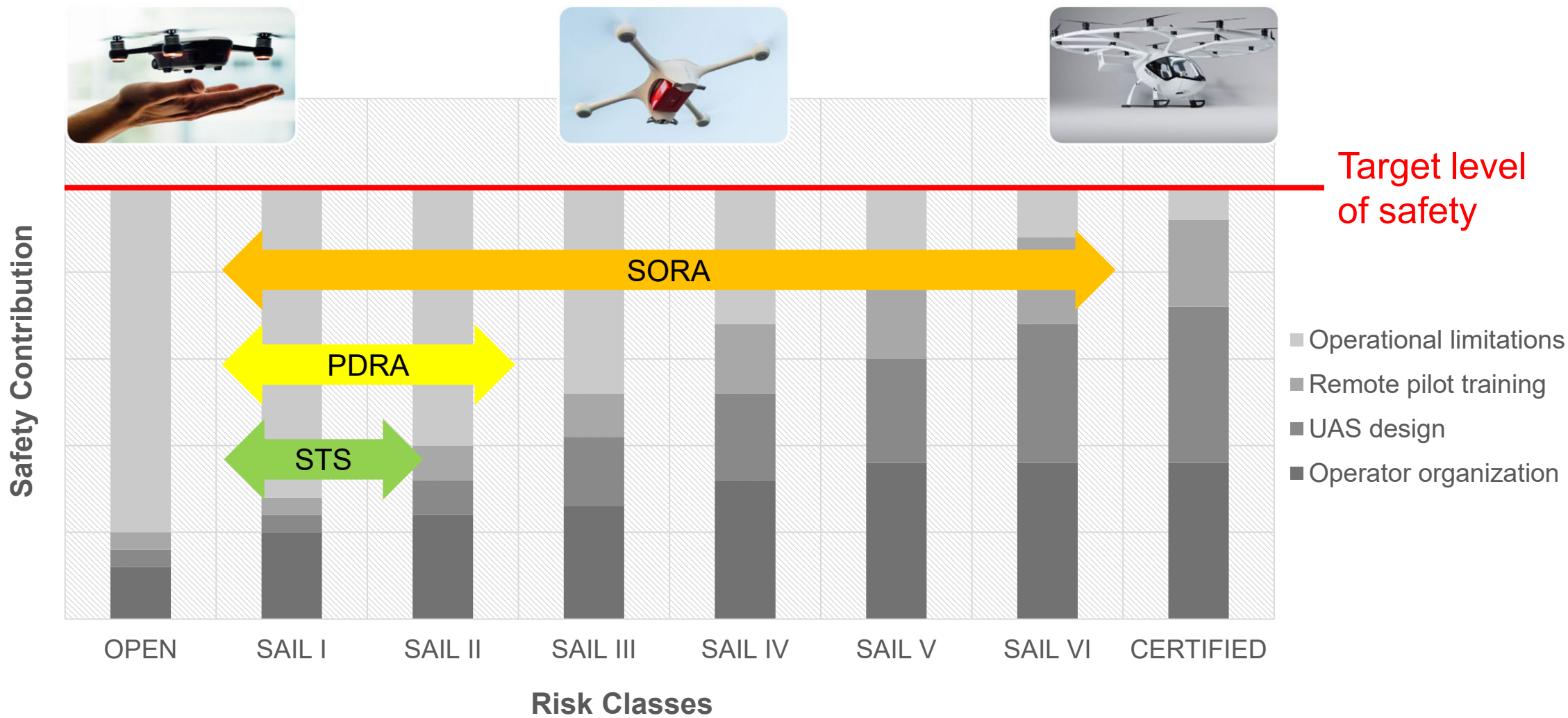
Air-taxi  
Freight transport

e.g. > 1m & over crowds

*Licensed crew & certified UAS*

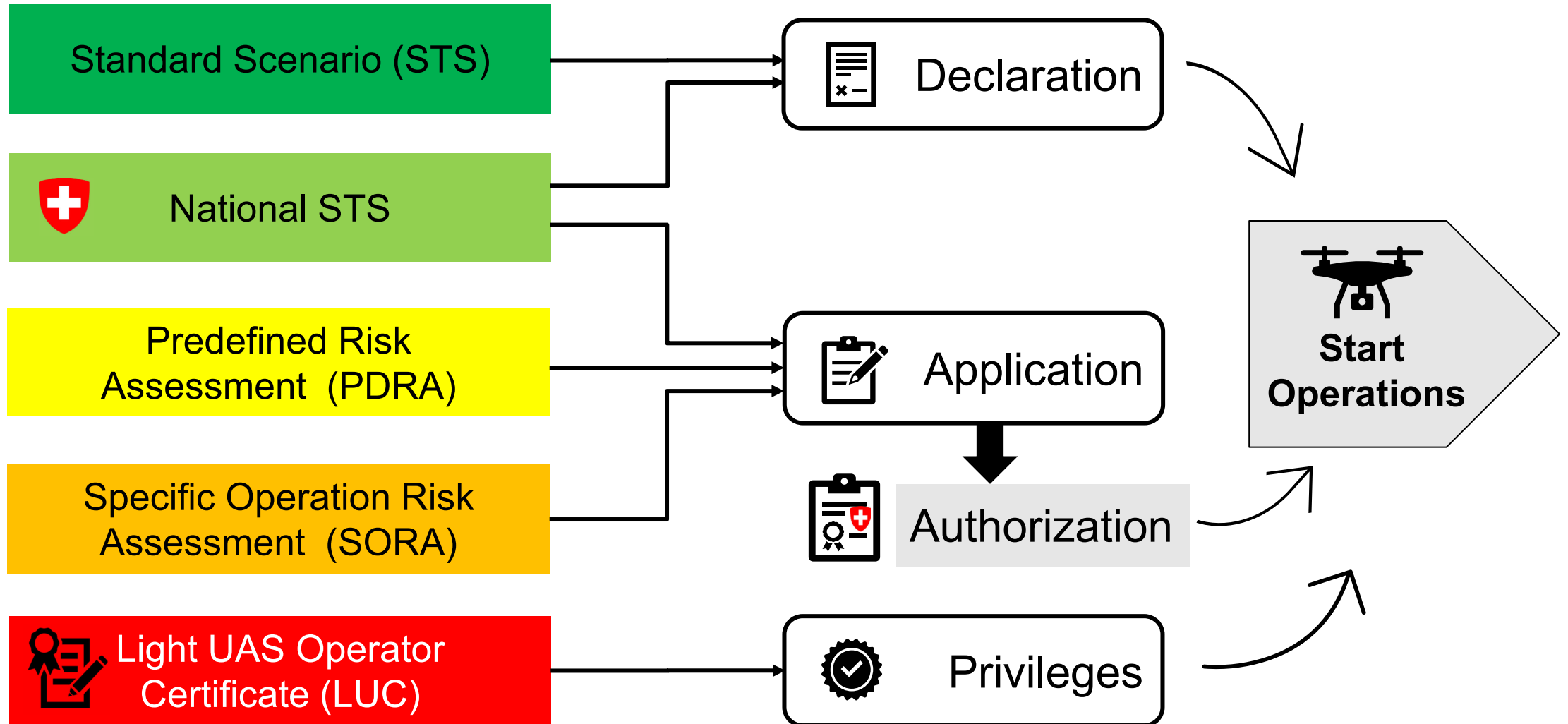


# Philosophy: Risk-based Approach





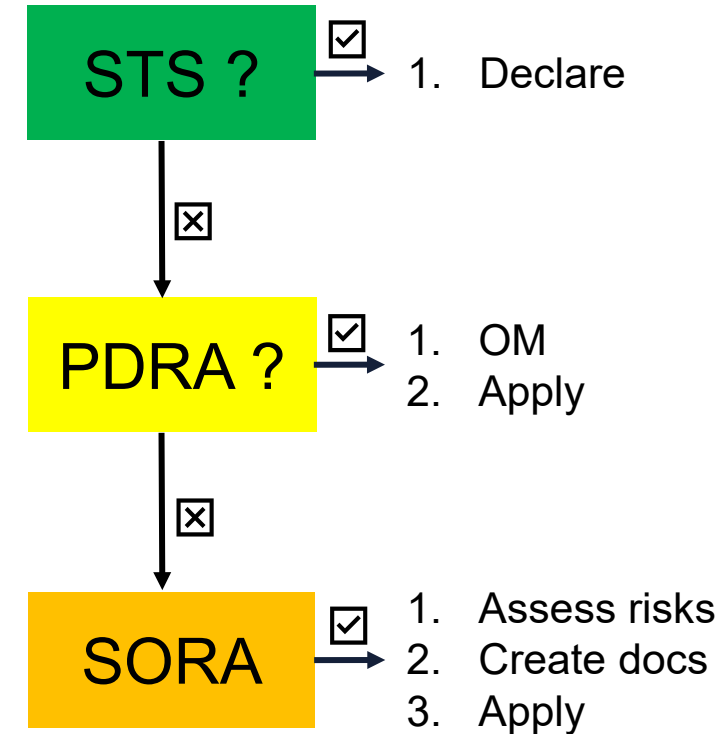
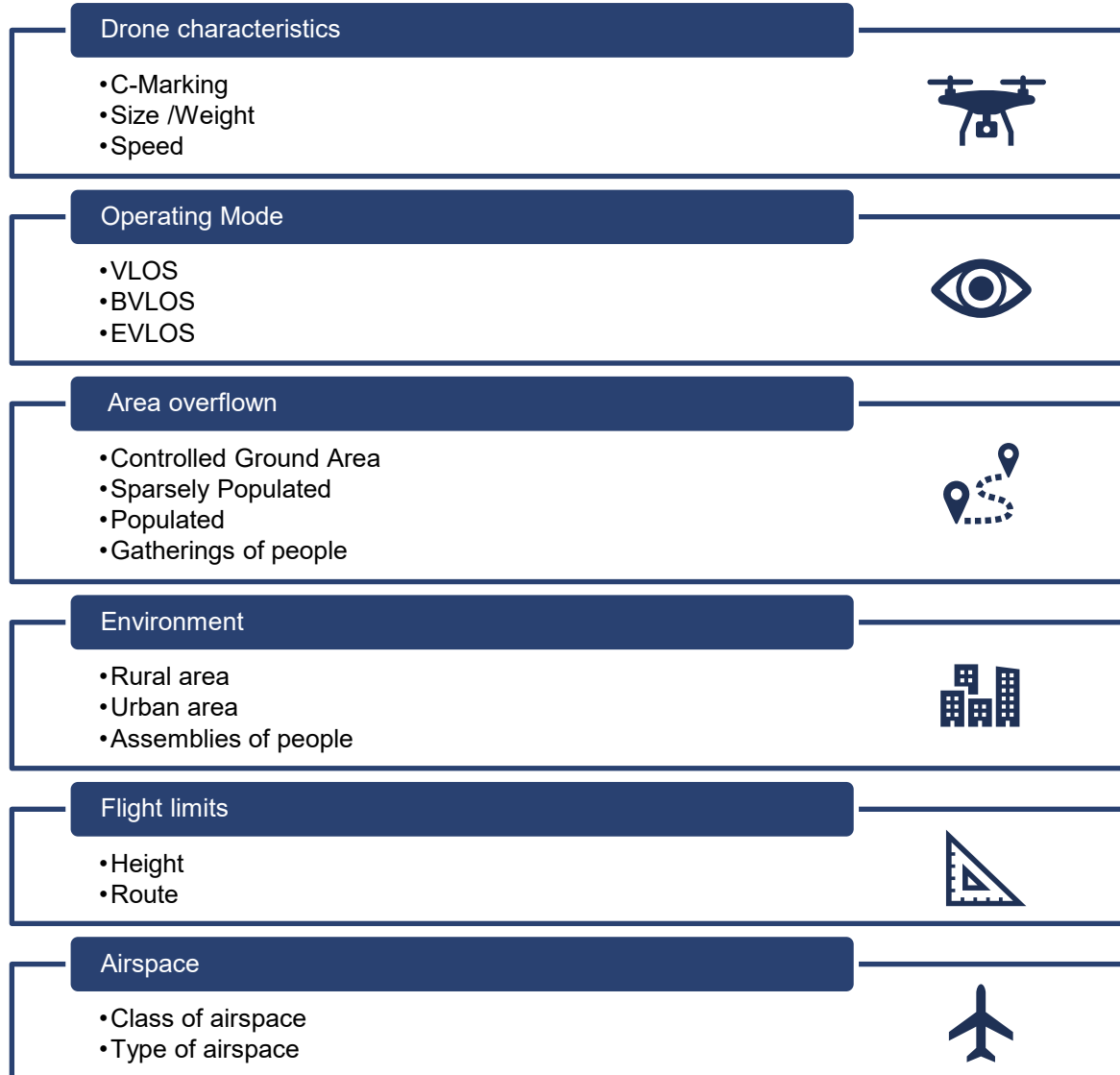
# Types of approvals/declarations





# Which approval procedure for my operation(s)

## Concept of Operations (ConOps)







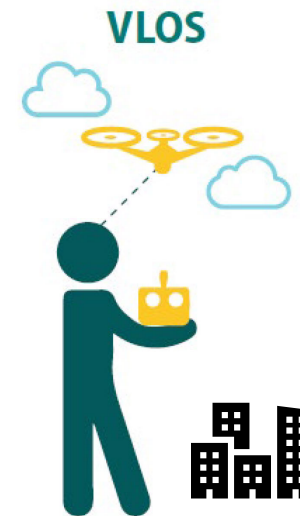
## CH-STS (National)

- Approvable until 12/2023
- Valid until 12/2025
- Drone: No C-label required
- Mostly based on declarations

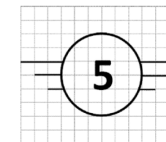


## EU-STS (European)

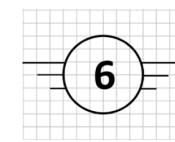
- Applicable from 01/2024
- Drones: C5 or C6 label
- Only declarations



STS-01



STS-02



STS

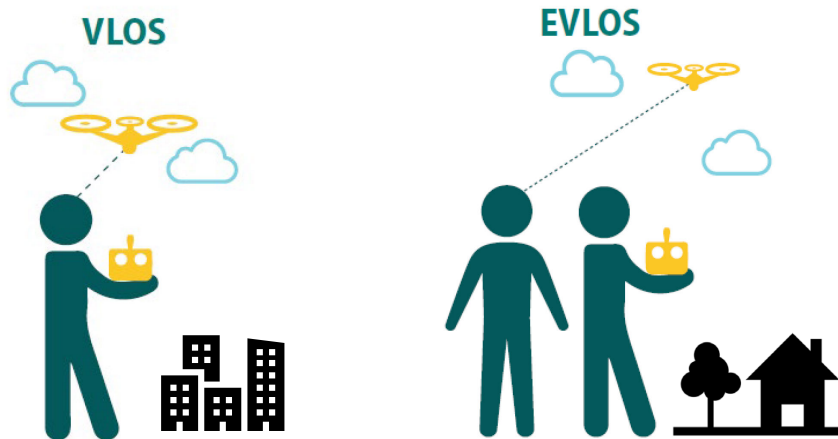


# PDRA: Pre-defined Risk Assessment

PDRA

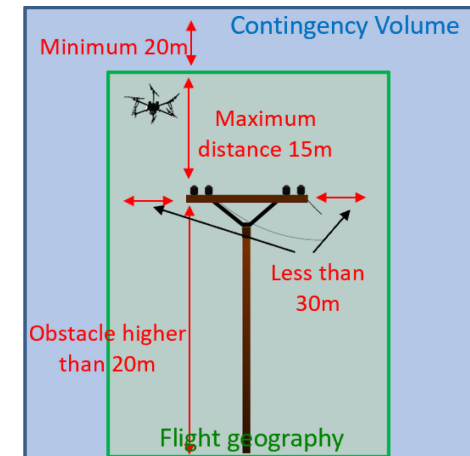
- For drones **without** class marking
- Declaration plus evidence (OM)

- PDRA S-01: “Mirror” of EU STS-01
    - VLOS
    - urban area
  - PDRA S-02: “Mirror” of EU STS-02
    - EVLOS
    - rural area
- **Requirement: Controlled ground area!**



## PDRA G-0x: BVLOS flights

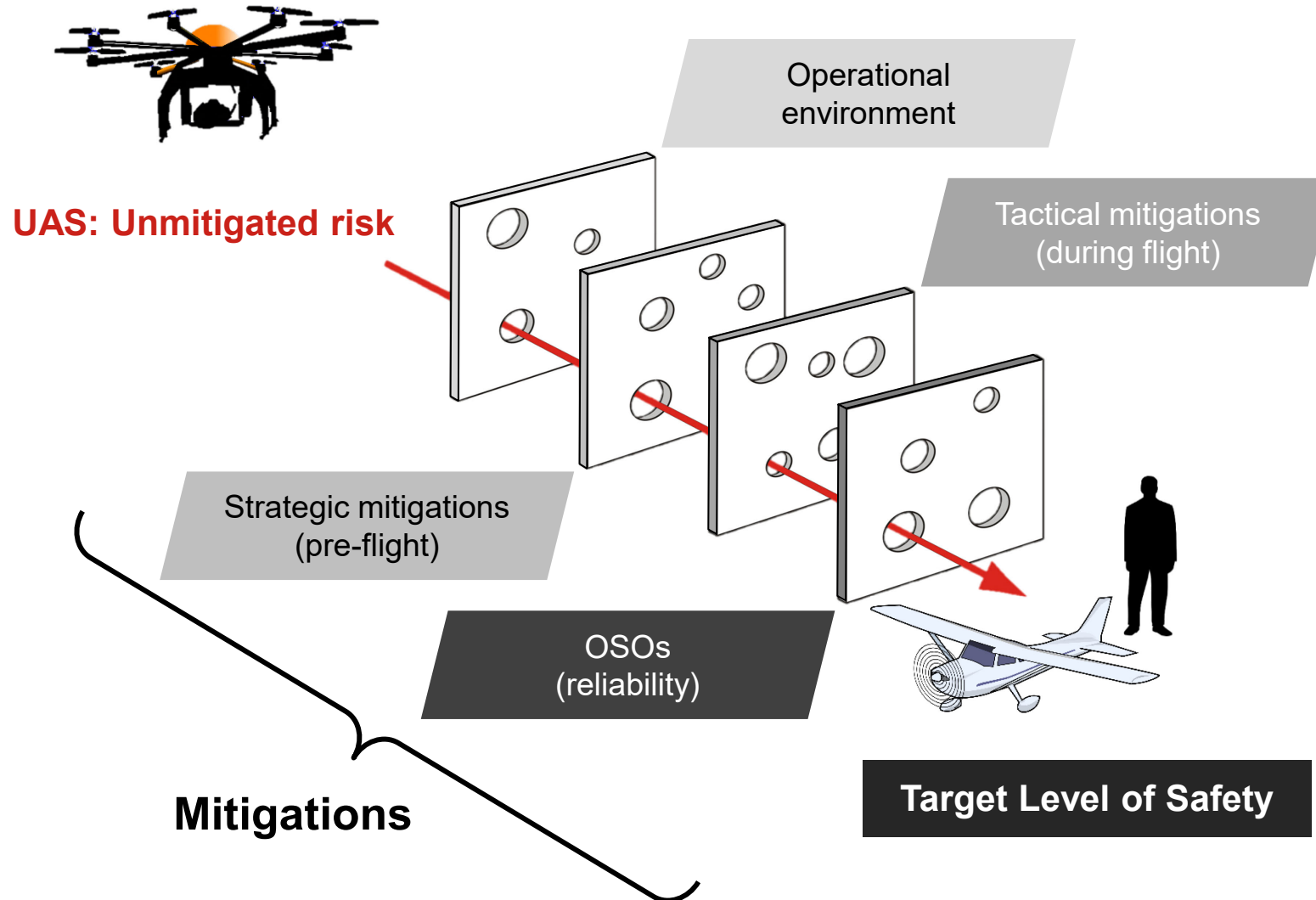
- G-01: rural area with Airspace Observers (AO)
- G-02: reserved/restricted airspace
- G-03: close to infrastructure – inspection



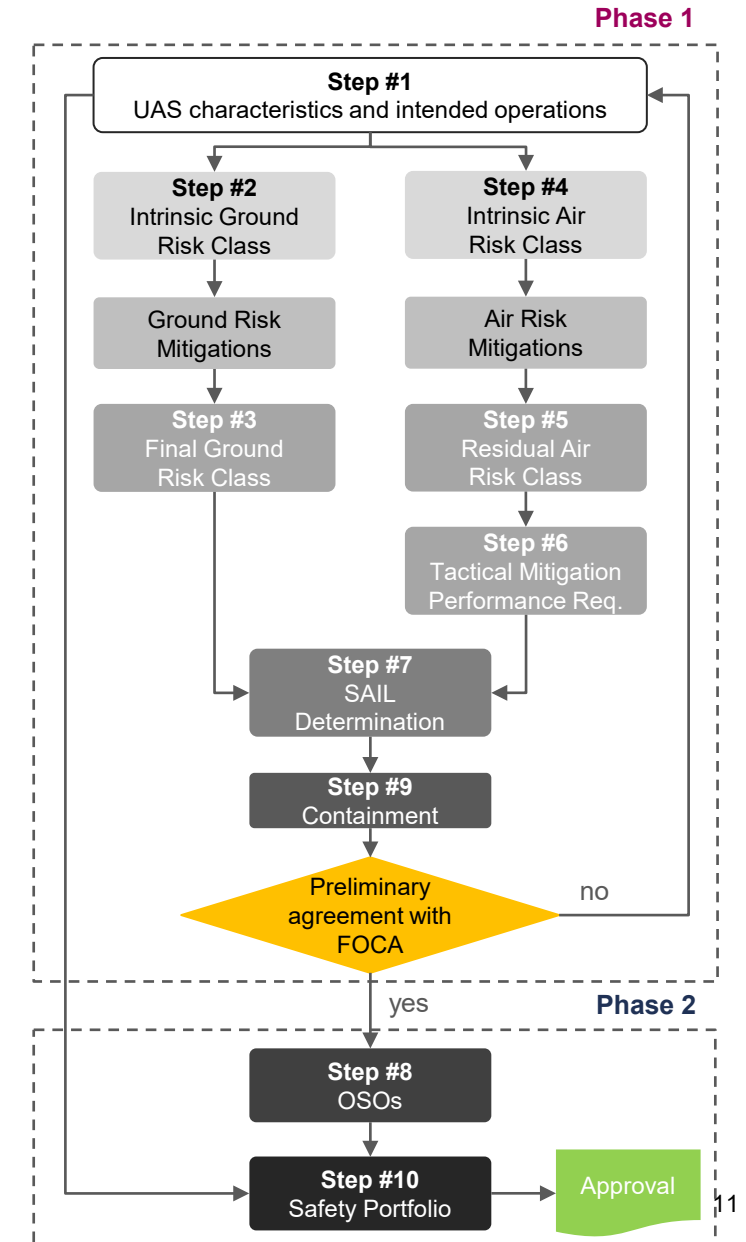


# SORA: "Swiss cheese" & Bird's-eye View

SORA



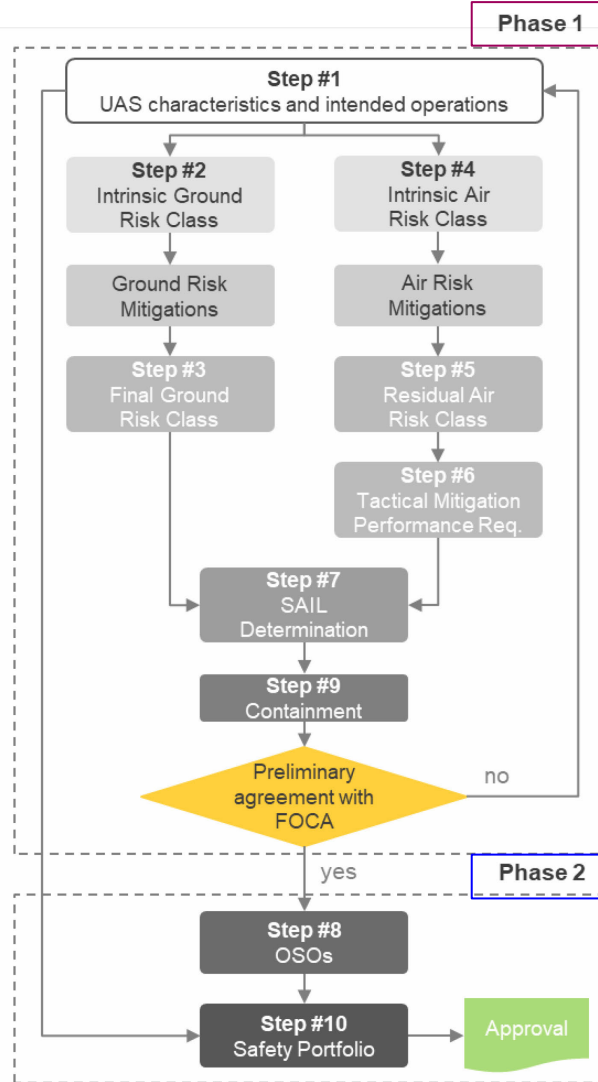
FOCA Webinar: Specific Category





# SORA application process @FOCA

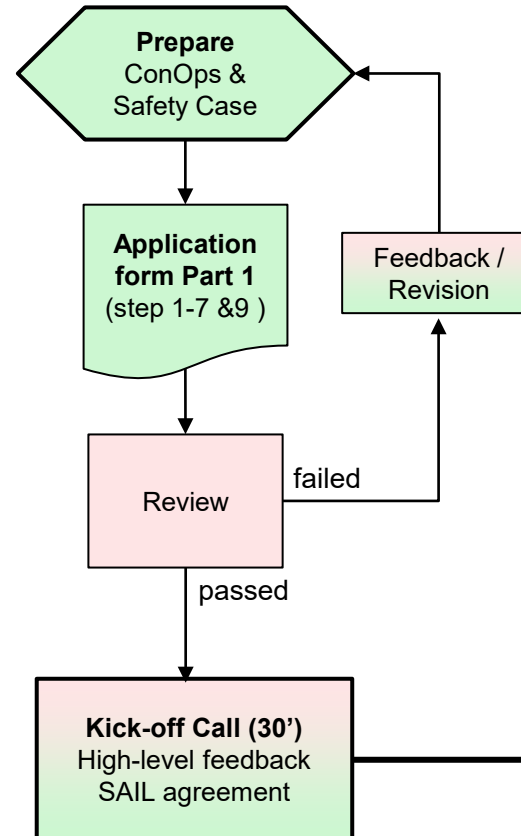
SORA



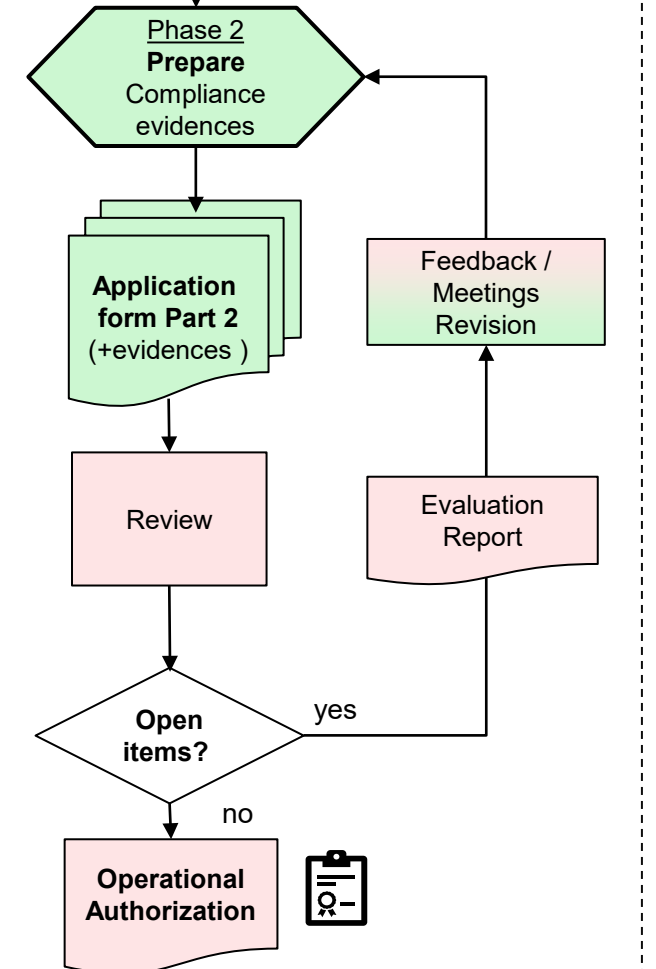
First :  
Read Guidance Material



**Phase 1**



**Phase 2**







# Use-case #1: PDRA S-01 → Usable

CONSTRUCTION-MONITORING, Rte de Meyrin, Geneva

## High-level ConOps:

Parameter	Value
Range limit	VLOS
Type UA	Multicopter
Max CD/Size	0.7 m
MTOW	4.5 kg
V0	15 m/s
Hmax	60 m AGL

Sub-urban / Populated



PDRA

## PDRA characterization\*:

REQ #	Condition
1.6	UAS operations should be conducted over a <b>controlled ground area (CGA)</b> .
3.1.2	...contingency volume (CV) => at least <b>10 m</b>
3.5	...establish a <b>ground risk buffer (GRB)</b> to protect 3rd parties on ground
3.6	Ground risk buffer (Max height <60 m AGL, MTOM <10kg) => <b>15 m</b>
4.1.10	ensure that before starting the operation, the <b>controlled ground area is in place</b> , effective, and compliant with the minimum distance that is defined in points 3.1 and 3.5

\*AMC4 to Article 11 of (EU) 2019/947

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Definition  
of CGA





# Controlled Ground Area (CGA)



## PDRA S-01 , condition # 4.1.11

4.1.11 ensure that before starting the operation, all persons that are present in the controlled ground area:

- (a) have been informed of the risks of the operation;
- (b) have been briefed on or trained in, as appropriate, the safety precautions and measures that the UAS operator has established for their protection; and
- (c) have explicitly agreed to participate in the operation.



### Interpretation:

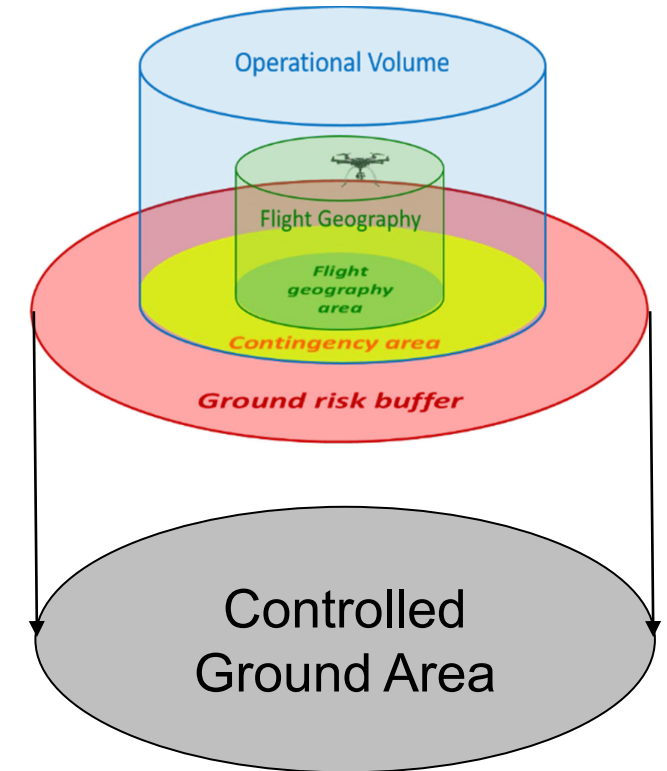
Establish diligent procedure to strategically (before the flight) mitigate the risk on ground, down to practically zero.

### Solutions/options:

- Can be fenced, with cordon procedures / security perimeter (e.g., involving police)
- If not fenced,
  - Area must be clearly marked with signs; and
  - Area must be monitored fully by the operator for any people entering area; and
  - In addition, a procedure must be established to cope with uninvolved persons entering the controlled ground area take appropriate measures to maintain safety.

### Caution !

In case a controlled ground area is used in a populated area, it triggers enhanced containment as per AMC1 to Article 11 and FOCA AltMoC.



Further info → FOCA Guidance Material ([FOCA-UAS-GM-Part 1](#))





# Use-case #2a: PDRA S-01 → Limited use

MAPPING / INSPECTION, BAZL Facilities, Ittigen

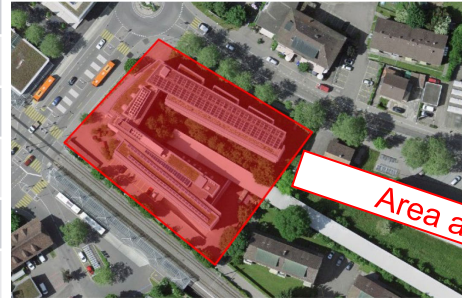
PDRA



## High-level ConOps:

Parameter	Value
Range limit	VLOS
Type UA	Multicopter
Max CD/Size	0.7m
MTOW	4.5 kg
V0	15 m/s
Hmax	80m AGL

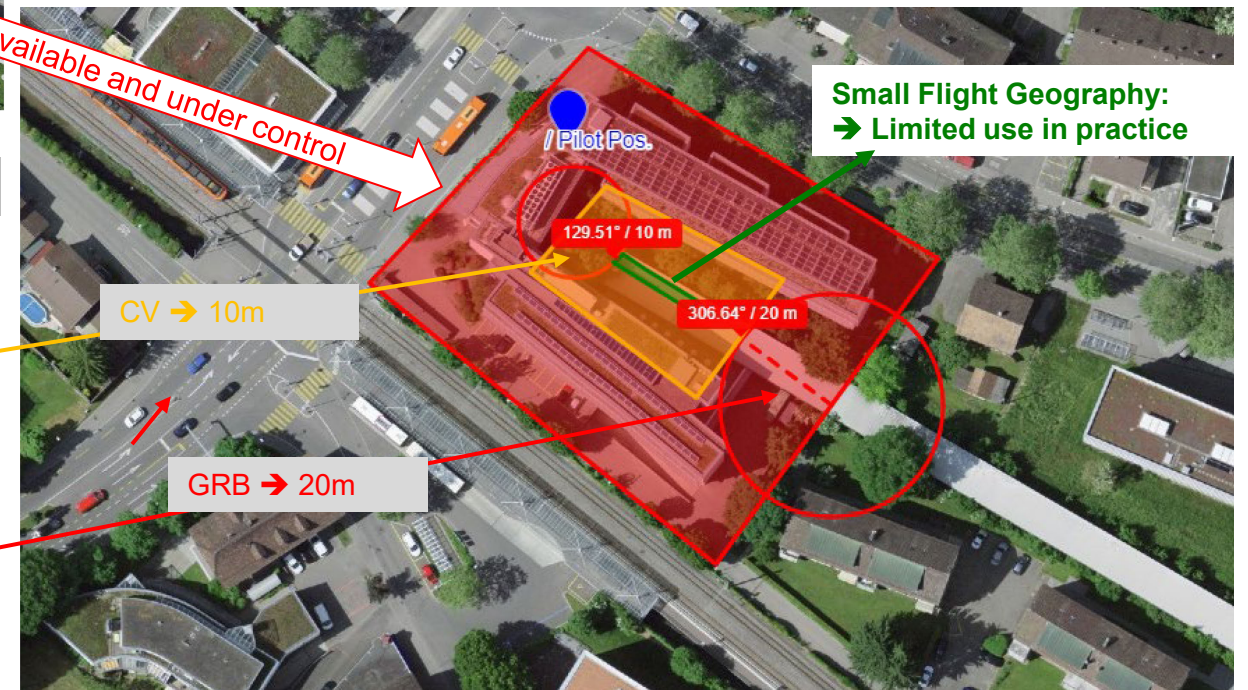
Urban / Populated



Area available and under control

## PDRA characterization:

REQ #	Condition
1.6	UAS operations should be conducted over a <b>controlled ground area (CGA)</b> .
3.1.2	...contingency volume (CV) => at least <b>10 m</b>
3.5	...establish a <b>ground risk buffer (GRB)</b> to protect 3rd parties on ground
3.6	Ground risk buffer (Max height <90 m AGL, MTOM<10kg) => <b>20m</b>



Small Flight Geography:  
→ Limited use in practice

\*AMC4 to Article 11 of (EU) 2019/947

FOCA Webinar: Specific Category





# Use-case #2b: PDRA S-01 → Limited use

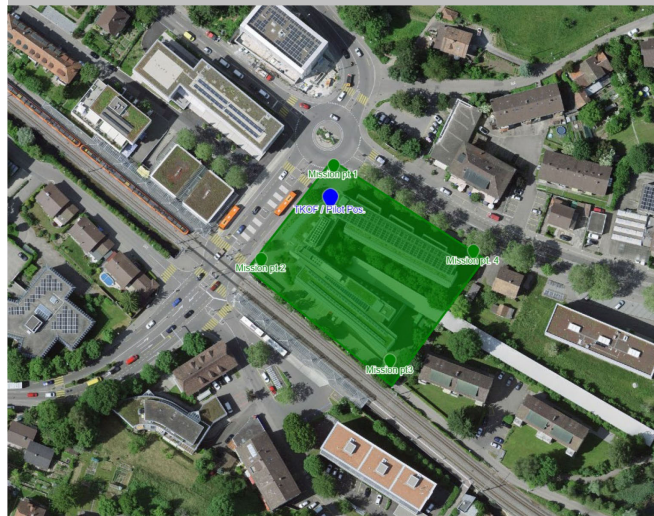
MAPPING / INSPECTION, BAZL Facilities, Ittigen

→ Forward Planning

PDRA



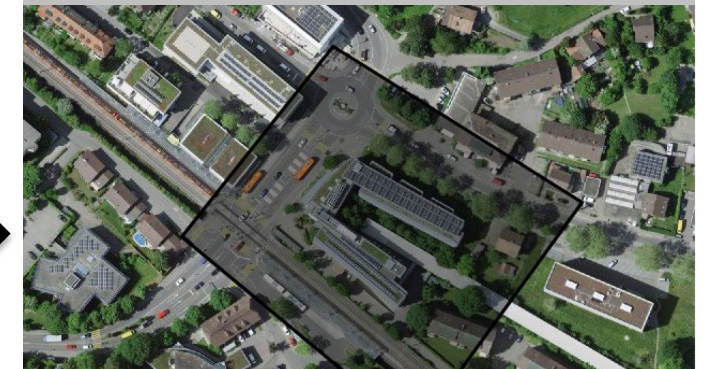
Start from the needed flight geography, suitable for the mission



Apply required contingency volume and ground risk buffer



OUTCOME



The UAS operator need to have control over area that are not easily manageable (here: the whole neighborhood)

Solution

SORA

- Offers flexibility
- Demands effort and resources





# Use-case #3: SORA – Step #1

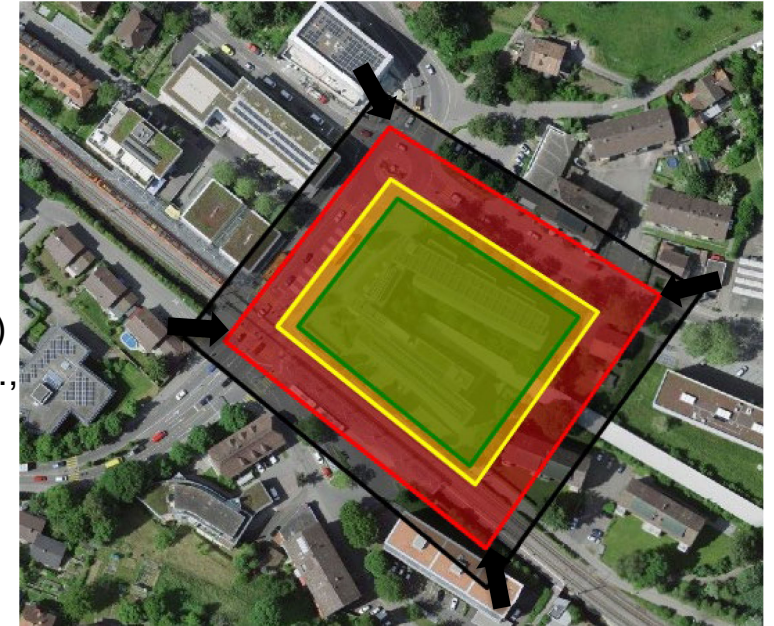
## Step #1 – Concept of Operations :

Parameter	Value
Mission	Thermal Mapping
Range limit	VLOS
Type UA	Multicopter
Max CD/Size	0.7m
MTOW	4.5 kg
V0	15 m/s
Hmax	80m AGL
Area overflown	Populated

### Operating Volumes/Area

Defined according to:

- Mission needs (FG)
- Actual UA characteristics & performance (CV)
- Realistic dynamics in case of termination, e.g., ballistic approach (GRB)



Reduction of GRC footprint in comparison to PDRA



Ref. FOCA Guidance Material ([FOCA-UAS-GM-Part 1](#))

GRB Lateral - $S_{GRB}$	
<b><math>S_{GRB}</math> – Method 1</b> Generic approach - 1:1 Rule	$S_{GRB} = H_{CV} + \frac{1}{2} \cdot CD [m]$
<b><math>S_{GRB}</math> – Method 2</b> Ballistic approach <sup>6</sup>	$S_{GRB} = V_0 \sqrt{\frac{2H_{CV}}{g}} + \frac{1}{2} \cdot CD [m]$
<small><u>Note:</u> This approach is <b>applicable only to rotary wing UA</b> (Helicopter, Multicopter)</small>	

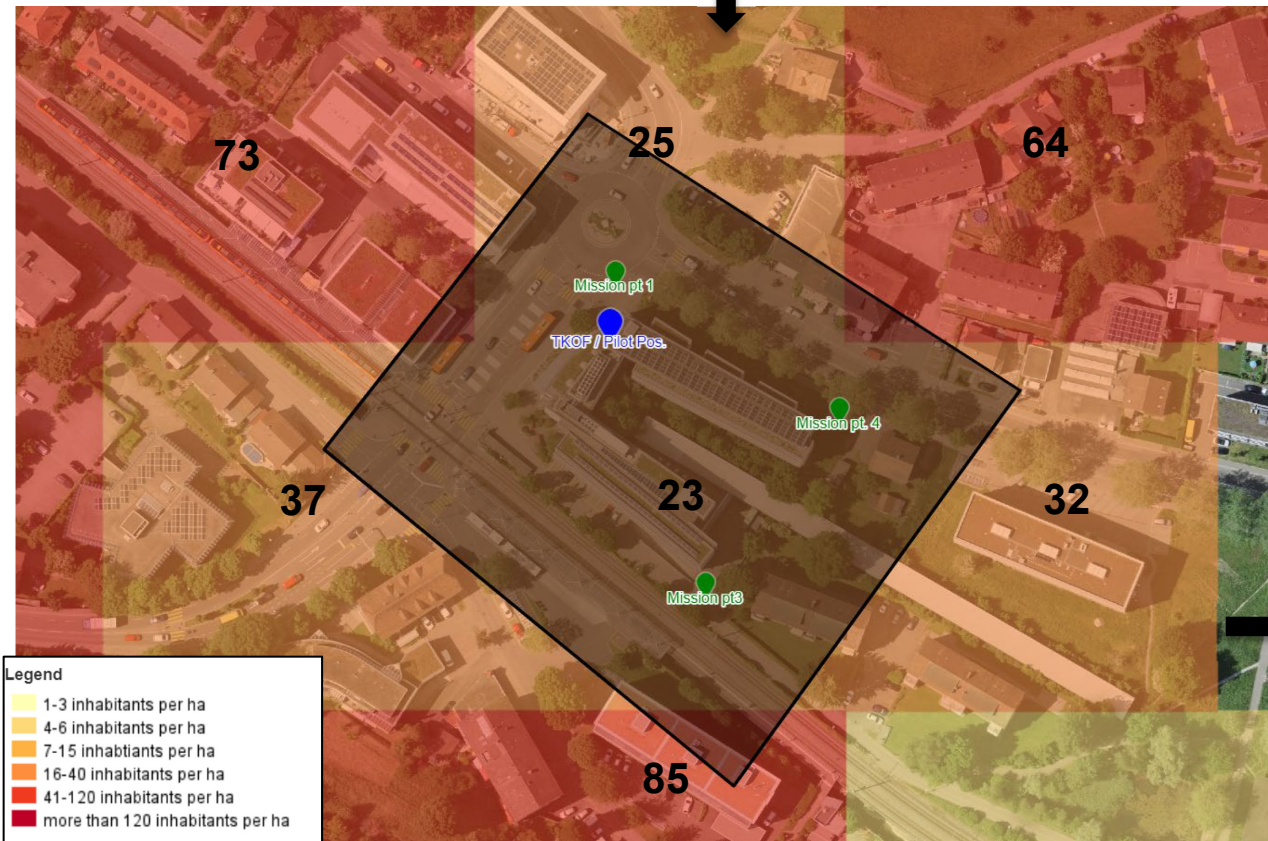


# Use-case #3: SORA – Step #2

SORA

## Step #2 – Determination of intrinsic Ground Risk (iGRC)

- Assessment based on population density layer of [map.geo.admin.ch](https://map.geo.admin.ch)
- 3 persons/ha → Populated area



Parameter	Value
Type UA	Multicopter
Max CD/Size	0.7m
MTOW	4.5 kg
$V_0$	15 m/s
Hmax	80m AGL
$V_{\text{terminal}}$	30 m/s* (Ekin ~ 2kJ)

Max UAS characteristics dimension	Intrinsic UAS ground risk class			
	1 m / approx. 3 ft	3 m / approx. 10 ft	8 m / approx. 25 ft	>8 m / approx. 25 ft
Typical kinetic energy expected	< 700 J (approx. 529 ft lb)	< 34 kJ (approx. 25 000 ft lb)	< 1 084 kJ (approx. 800 000 ft lb)	> 1 084 kJ (approx. 800 000 ft lb)
<b>Operational scenarios</b>				
VLOS/BVLOS over a controlled ground area <sup>3</sup>	1	2	3	4
VLOS over a sparsely populated area	2	3	4	5
BVLOS over a sparsely populated area	3	4	5	6
VLOS over a populated area	4	5	6	8
BVLOS over a populated area	5	6	8	10
VLOS over an assembly of people	7			
BVLOS over an assembly of people	8			

Table 2 — Determination of the intrinsic GRC

iGRC: 4





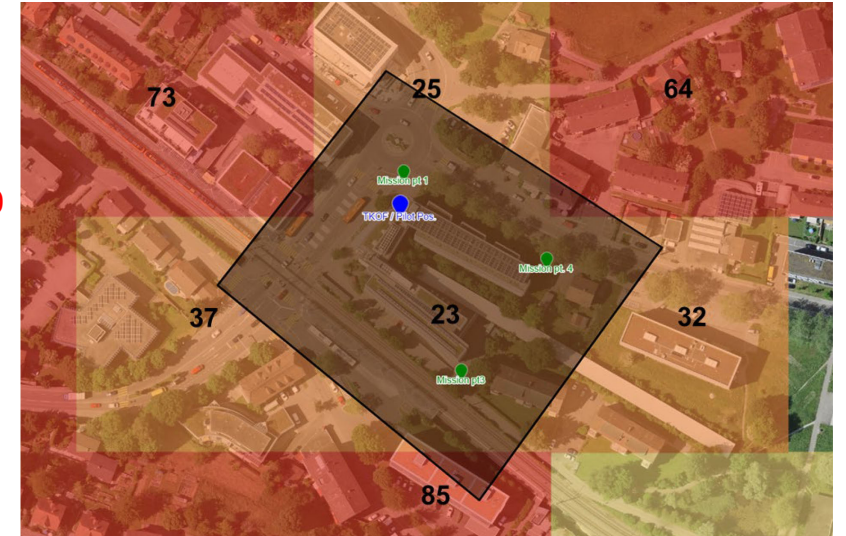
# Use-case #3: SORA – Step #3

## Step #3 – Ground Risk Mitigations → Final Ground Risk class

iGRC: 4 (VLOS in pop, 1m-class / <700J)

### Mitigation Sequence:

- **M1 – Strategic → Reduction of people at risk**  
Quantitative criteria : Demonstration that the risk is reduced by a **factor of approximately 10** (i.e. a 90 % reduction) compared to the risk assessed before the mitigation (= population density map)
  - time of exposure, time of the day, ...
  - warning signs, on-site inspection (procedure for site assessment)
  - people initially “at risk” are sheltered (protected by roofs, in cars ,...)
- **M2 – Tactical → Reduction of impact**
  - e.g. use of parachute, frangibility
    - M2 Medium → developed and tested according to standards
    - M2 High → verified by EASA
  - *Here: none, not claimed*
- **M3 – Organizational → Emergency Response Plan (ERP)**
  - An ERP is in place, operator validated and effective
  - ERP is compliant with (EU) AMCs, follows best-practices, evidence is available for review



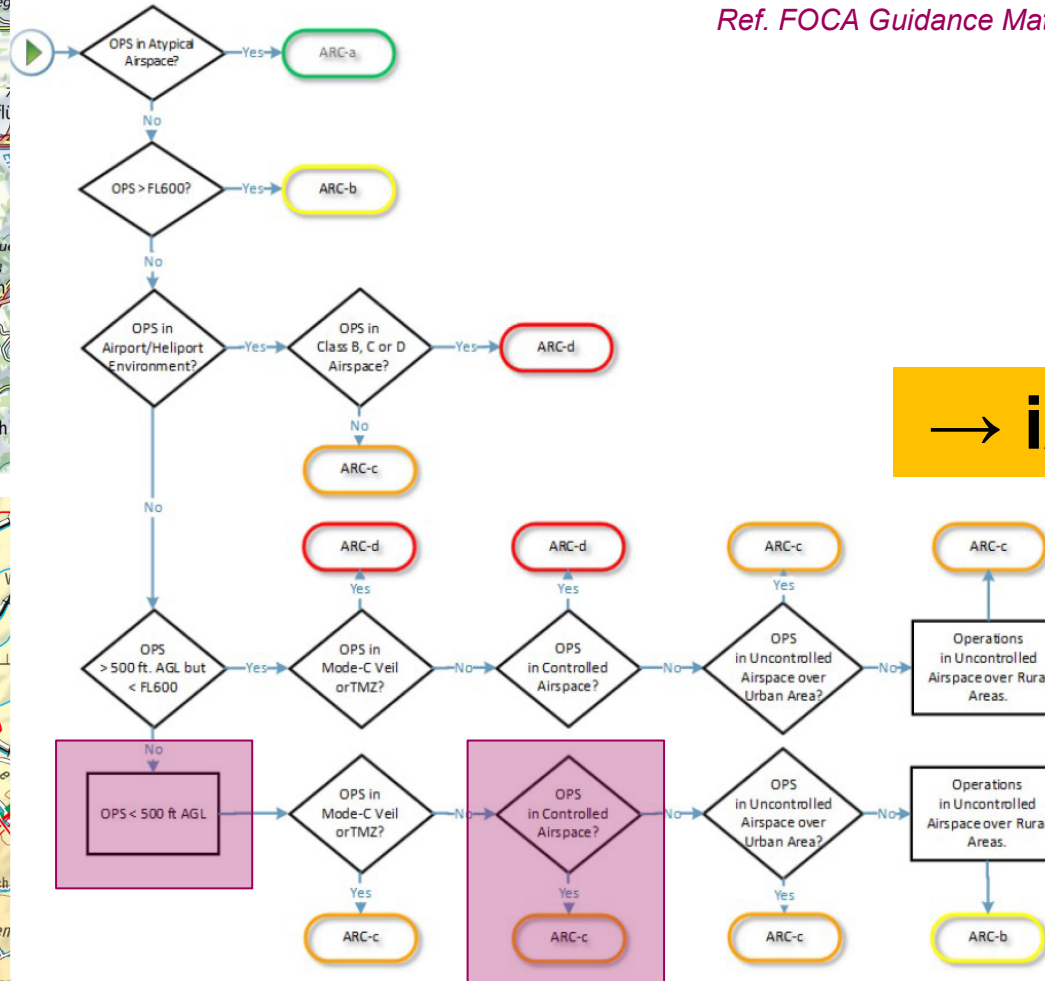
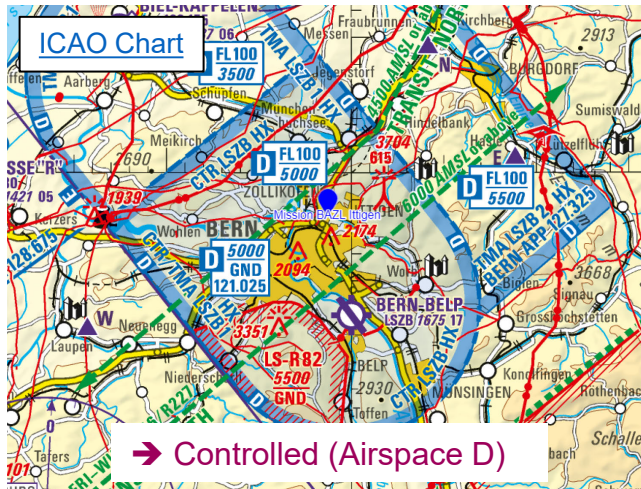
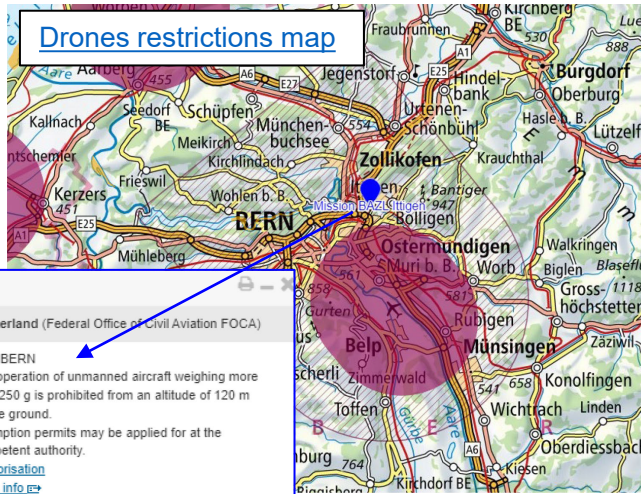
Mitigation Sequence	Robustness		
	Low/None	Medium	High
M1	0: None	-2	-4
	-1: Low		
M2	0	-1	-2
M3	1	0	-1

fGRC: 3



# Use-case #3: SORA – Step #4

## Step #4 – Air Risk Assessment



→ **iARC: ARC-c**





# Use-case #3: SORA – Step #5

## Step #5 – Air Risk Strategic Mitigations

### Demonstration of risk reduction → density similar to ARC-b?

- **Operational restrictions / type of operation:**
  - Max. height, VLOS, visual inspection, close to infrastructure...
- **Common structures and rules:**
  - Procedures in place: e.g. coordination with air navigation service provider (skyguide)
- **Considerations wrt. the OPEN category**
  - Here no exemption needed < 120m + VLOS rules of the air
- **General assessment of airspace users**
  - e.g., min. height for VFR, type of traffic expected, cooperative/uncooperative aircraft...
  - Hazard identification matrix
    - Hot air balloons ?
    - Hang gliders, paragliders, ... ?
    - Gliders / Sailplanes?
    - General Aviation, recreational aviation under VFR ?
    - Helicopters: Medical, Aerial Work, Military, State aircraft, ... ?

→ **fARC: ARC-b**



# Use-case #3: SORA – Step #6

## Step #6 – Tactical Mitigation Performance Requirements (TMPR) – during flight

### Here → VLOS Operations

The operator should produce:

- VLOS **de-confliction scheme**
- methods applied for detection
- criteria used to avoid incoming traffic
- If the remote pilot relies on detection by observers, description of:
  - communication phraseology,
  - procedures; and
  - protocols

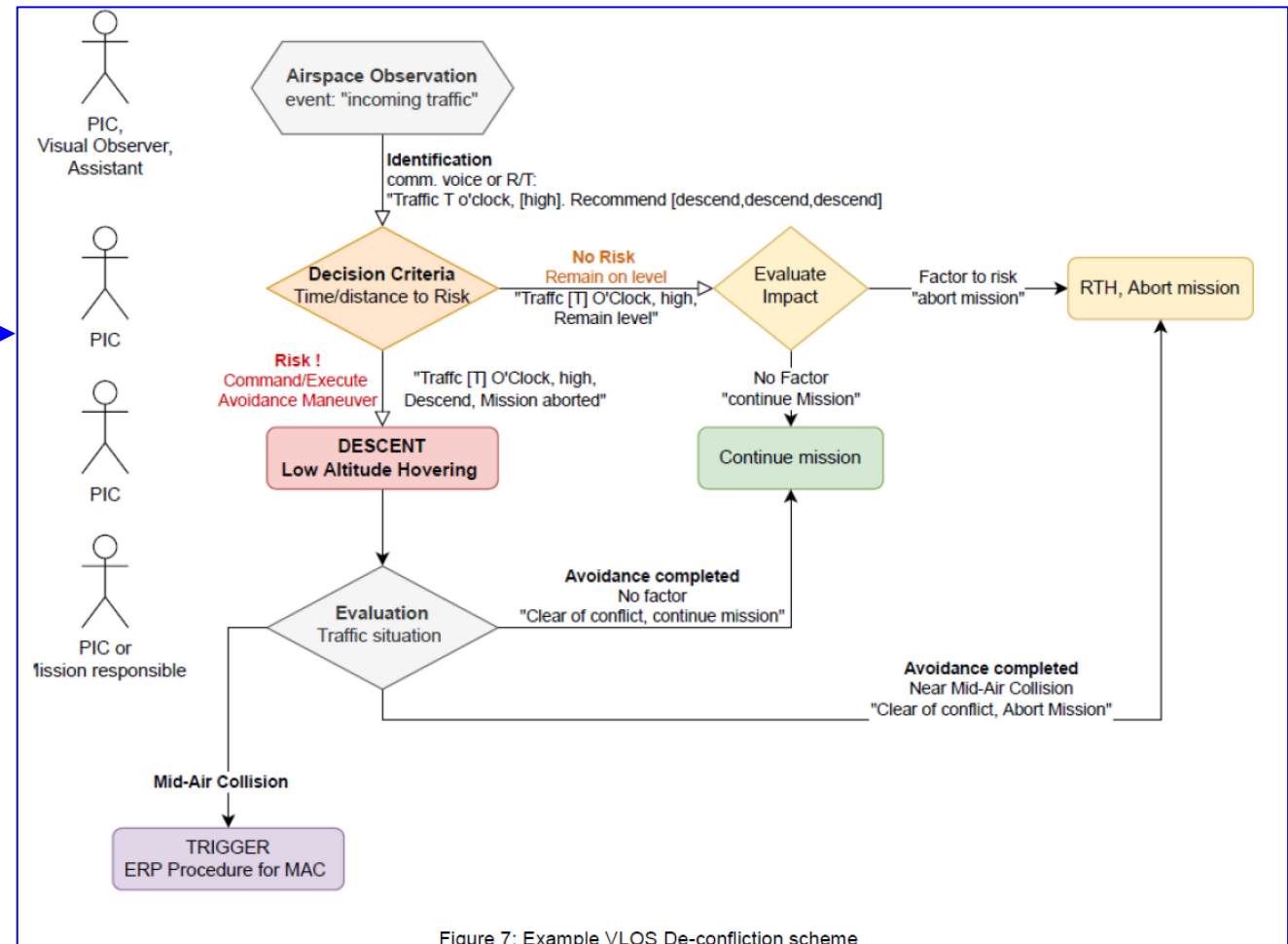


Figure 7: Example VLOS De-confliction scheme



# Use-case #3: SORA – Step #7 & #8

## Step #7 – Specific Assurance and Integrity Level (SAIL)



## Step #8 – Operational Safety Objectives


Solid justification/evidence to claim final Ground Risk Class and Air Risk Class ?

→ Agreement on SAIL with the authority

SAIL determination				
Final GRC	Residual ARC			
	a	b	c	d
≤2	I	II	IV	VI
3	II	II	IV	VI
4	III	III	IV	VI
5	IV	IV	IV	VI
6	V	V	V	VI
7	VI	VI	VI	VI
>7	Category C operation			

Table 5 — SAIL determination

OSO number (in line with Annex E)		SAIL					
		I	II	III	IV	V	VI
	<b>Technical issue with the UAS</b>						
OSO#01	Ensure the UAS operator is competent and/or proven	O	L	M	H	H	H
OSO#02	UAS manufactured by competent and/or proven entity	O	O	L	M	H	H
OSO#03	UAS maintained by competent and/or proven entity	L	L	M	M	H	H
OSO#04	UAS developed to authority recognised design standards <sup>1</sup>	O	O	L	L	M	H
OSO#05	UAS is designed considering system safety and reliability	O	O	L	M	H	H
OSO#06	C3 link performance is appropriate for the operation	O	L	L	M	H	H
OSO#07	Inspection of the UAS (product inspection) to ensure consistency with the ConOps	L	L	M	M	H	H
OSO#08	Operational procedures are defined, validated and adhered to	L	M	H			
OSO#09	Remote crew trained and current and able to control the abnormal situation	L	L	M	M	H	H
OSO#10	Safe recovery from a technical issue	L	L	M	M	H	H
	<b>Deterioration of external systems supporting UAS operations</b>						
OSO#11	Procedures are in-place to handle the deterioration of external systems supporting UAS operations	L	M	H	H	H	H
OSO#12	The UAS is designed to manage the deterioration of external systems supporting UAS operations	L	L	M	M	H	H

**Evidence:**  
Operations Manual

Evidence:  
Operations Manual



# Operations Manual (OM) – Guidance Material

**OM == ConOps (Annex A of SORA)**

→ clear and comprehensive overview of the operator's organization and procedures

## OM must at least contain:

- Company Safety Policy
- Organizational structure & responsibilities
- Change Management Process
- Crew Composition & Qualifications
- **Operational Procedures**
  - Standard Operating Procedures
  - Contingency Procedures
  - Emergency Procedures
- **Checklists / Briefing**
- **Emergency Response Plan (ERP)**
- Occurrence Reporting
- Training Program
- Maintenance
- UAS Description & Specifications\*  
\*Reference to manufacturer's documentation OK

FOCA-UAS-GM-OM

Operational Procedures (Part B)

Operating Site Planning Assessment - TEMPLATE

Area

Overflow terrain

Verify maximal population density of Ground Risk footprint on the population density map. For Switzerland: Use the [Population Statistics: Inhabitants](#) (Federal Statistical Office FSO) and [Built-up areas as defined in Swiss civil aviation legislation](#) layers from map.geo.admin.ch

**PRIORITY**

1 **KEEP CALM**  
but do not waste time

**GET AN OVERVIEW**

☐ Put on high visibility jackets

☐ Assess the situation

☐ What has happened? (If FLY AWAY: Go to 4 – Alert ATS)

☐ Who is involved?

☐ Who is affected?

☐ Ensure own protection

**2 **THINK****

**CONSIDER POTENTIAL HAZARDS**

fuels, batteries, toxic substances, dangerous goods containers

vegetation, wind, parachute ballistics, ...

☐ Danger for rescuers?

☐ Fire hazard?

☐ Explosion hazard?

**Flight Termination (TERMINATE)**  
ISS 1 / REV 0 / dd.mm.yyyy

**TERMINATE Checklist**  
REMOTE PILOT

**[EMERGENCY PROCEDURES]**

KILL KILL SWITCH BUTTON .....ACTIVATE

CALL OUT CRASH! CRASH! CRASH! .....CALL OUT LOUD

INSTRUCT "DISARM MOTOR" .....CALL OUT TO GROUND STATION

**TERMINATE Checklist**  
GROUND STATION

**[EMERGENCY PROCEDURES]**

DISARM Motors .....DISARM

TAKE NOTE Last position and Direction .....NOTE

**TERMINATE Checklist**  
OBSERVER

**[EMERGENCY PROCEDURES]**

TAKE COVER Find shelter .....TAKE COVER

WARN "Look out, take cover! - Look out, take cover!" .....CALL OUT

**ACTION ITEMS**

an regarding population density public spaces like parks, other errain;

number of people in the operational game.

erations for automatic return to

operation with the responsible

ions such as wires, masts,

g.: wind turbines or power lines

s to access the overflow area

nter the area being used for set out in the authorisation are

ifferent aeronautical charts can chart which can be found here:

ound here: [Symbology](#)

ds or paraglider starting places e mentioned in the mission plan.

ations on local aerodromes or and potential activities by other assessment, the [ICAO map](#), the [fts and mountain landing sites](#) pots.

in place, which may impact the

: activities

Aerial Work operations (paragliders)

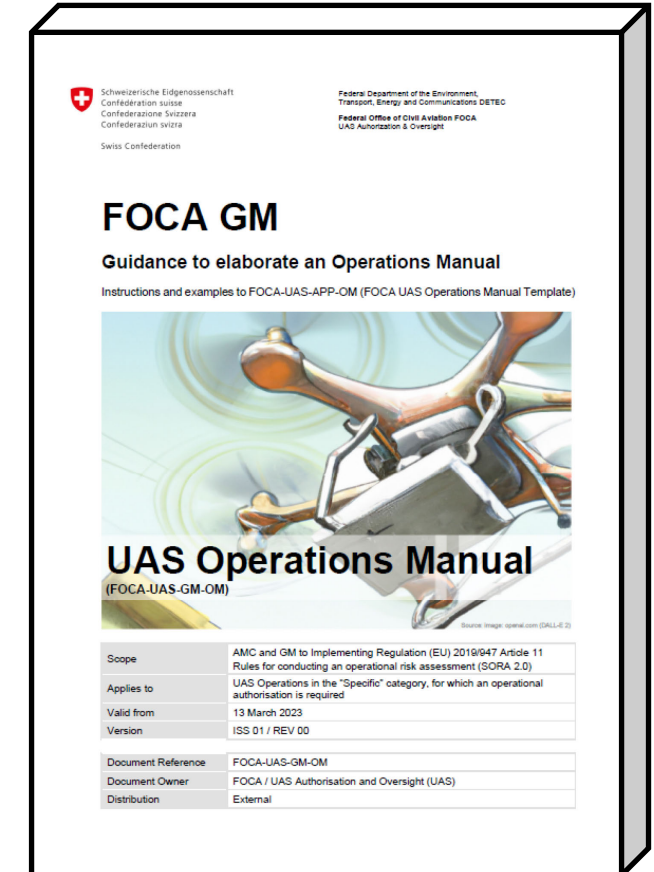
series! Explosion hazard!

ITION formally → REANIMATE

Tel. 1414

Tel. 118

Tel. 145

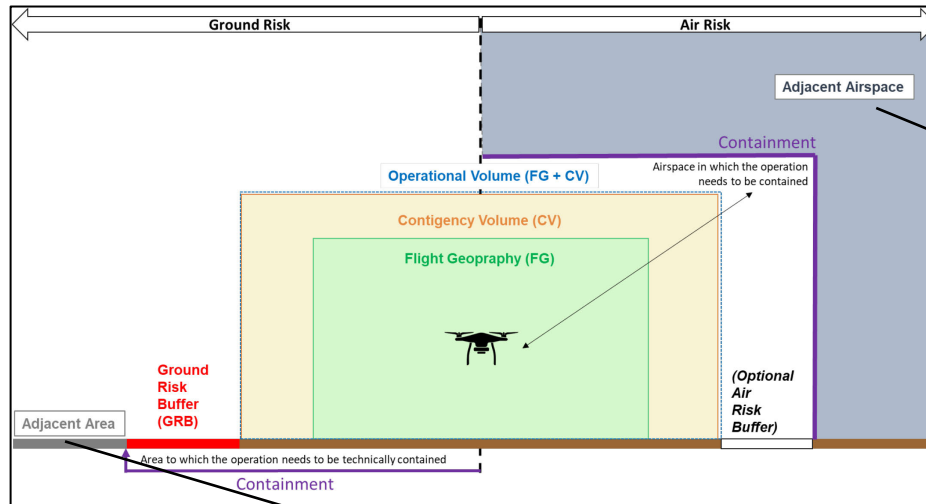


→ Check FOCA Guidance Material (GM) and Template for Operations Manual ([LINK](#))



# Step #9 Containment

SORA



Assess adjacent area and airspace\*

Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft  
Confédération suisse  
Confederazione Svizzera  
Confederaziun svizra

Federal Department of the Environment,  
Transport, Energy and Communication DETEC  
Federal Office of Civil Aviation FOCA  
Safety Division - Flight Operations

FOCA AltMoC Alternative Means of Compliance

SORA 2.0 Containment

AltMoC to AMC1 Article 11, section 2.5.3, Step #9

Scope	SORA Containment
Applies to	UAS Operators in specific category within Switzerland up to 3m class
Valid from	01 January 2023
Version	01 (initial issue)
Business object	311.340-35/7/2
Document Owner	UAS Bewilligung und Aufsicht
Distribution	External

Incl. new triggers for enhanced containment

This document is an Alternative Means of Compliance (AltMoC) issued by FOCA according to Regulation (EU) No 2019/947 (Unmanned Aircraft Systems), Regulation (EU) No (EU) 2018/1139

[LINK](#)

## BASIC CONTAINMENT

"No probable failure leading to a fly-away into the adjacent area/airspace"

- analysis of the UAS's probable failure types
- design and installation appraisal

## ENHANCED CONTAINMENT

3 "fly-away" technical safety requirements:

- FTS → EASA MoC 2511-01
- Other designs (e.g., Tether)
  - Declaration based on evidence; or
  - EASA Design Verification Report (DVR)

\* See [slide 32](#) for further detail on Step #9 assessment







# Do we need an approval for each new location?

## Generic vs Precise Operation Authorization\*

\*needs to be discussed in detail within formal application process!

FOCA needs to gain trust in the competence of the operator, substantiated and documented with clear evidences that the requirements of the EU AMC are met.

Best practice is to first issue one to a couple of location-specific approval before 'generalizing' it.

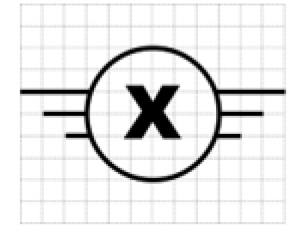
Generally, a **generic** approval under PDRA or SORA is possible and will require:

- generally applicable mitigations and/or restrictions (e.g. restricted airspace(s) granted, controlled ground area);
- clear and unambiguous operational conditions/limitations for a given UAS mission;
- the most diligent operational procedures to ensure that these conditions are always met; and
- sample of real and potential missions to assess the capacity of the applicant/UAS operator to conduct a risk assessment and/or apply the operational limitations

*Further: see Annex to (EU)2019/947, GM2 UAS.SPEC.030(2)*



# Do I need a class label in the SPECIFIC?



Answer: It depends...



EU-STS: **Yes**

CH-STS, SORA: **No**

PDRA → tricky:



PDRA-S: "Similar"  
functionality to **C5/C6**

PDRA-G: **No**

## Conformity table

	C0	C1	C2	C3	C4	C5	C6
Internal production control (Part 7 of R945)	X				X	X	X
EU-type examination and conformity to type based on internal production control (Part 8 of R945)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Conformity based on full quality assurance (Part 9 of R945)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X

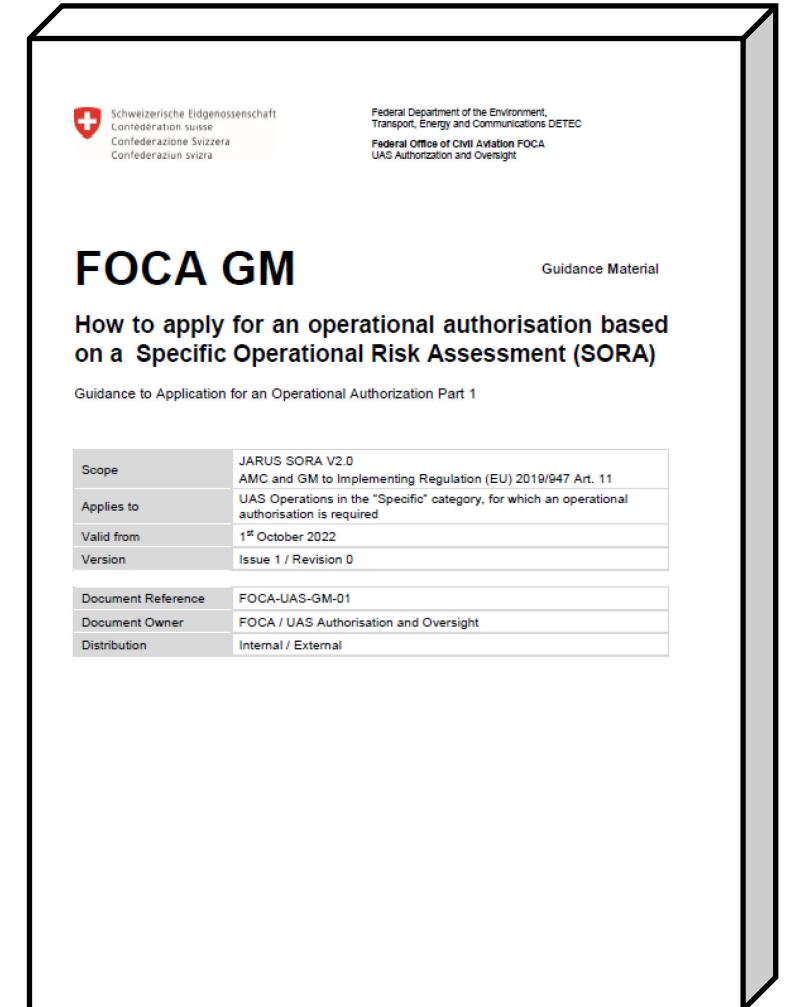
## Functionality table

	C0	C1	C2	C3	C4	C5	C6
A maximum weight below 250 g	X						
A maximum weight below 900 g		X					
A maximum weight below 4 kg			X				
A maximum weight below 25 kg				X	X	X	X
A low speed mode (< 3 m/s), excepted for fixed-wing			X				
A low speed mode (< 5 m/s), unless tethered						X	
An indication of the noise emission		X	X	X		X	X
A direct remote identification function		X	X	X		X	X
A geo-awareness function		X	X	X			
A low-battery warning		X	X	X		X	X
A flight termination system, unless tethered						X	X
A geo-caging function							X
Information of drone position, speed and altitude						X	X



# Where to get help?

- [Specific Category Guide: Decision Tree](#)
- [FOCA GM on SORA Part 1](#) (all steps except. OSOs)
  - [FOCA GM on ERP](#) (Step #3: M3)
  - [FOCA GM on Initial Air Risk Assessment](#) (Step #4)
  - [FOCA GM on Operational Procedures](#) (Step #8/OSO8)
- [FOCA GM on Operations Manual](#) + [Template](#)
- [LBA](#): OM Template and Guidelines on dimensioning
- [EASA – Civil Drones page](#)





# Question from Webinar #1 :

How do you define the distance at which a drone is no longer considered to be in VLOS?

## Appendix 1. Definition of VLOS / BVLOS Limits

*Note: This section presents an approach developed and used by the German NAA – LBA in [4]*

To determine whether an operation is conducted in VLOS condition, the main factor is to ensure that the remote pilot can truly operate the UAS within visual range. To check whether an intended UAS operation is in VLOS or BVLOS conditions, the following considerations shall be made:

Any operation beyond **VLOS<sub>Maximum Range</sub>**, i.e. the maximum possible distance between the pilot location and the boundary between contingency volume and ground risk buffer is greater than **VLOS<sub>Maximum Range</sub>**, is considered BVLOS.

$$\text{VLOS}_{\text{Maximum Range}} = \min(\text{ALOS}, \text{DLOS})$$

Where

- **ALOS - Attitude Line Of Sight:**

*The Attitude Line Of Sight defines the maximum distance of attitude recognition. Up to this optical limit, the remote pilot is able to control the flight path of the UAS, i.e. to determine the attitude and position of the UAS. This can be determined by flight tests.*

- For Helicopter UAV and Multicopter :  $\text{ALOS}_{\text{max,rotorcraft}} = 327 \cdot CD + 20 \text{ [m]}$
- For Fixed-wing UAV :  $\text{ALOS}_{\text{max,fixedwing}} = 490 \cdot CD + 30 \text{ [m]}$

- **DLOS - Detection Line of Sight:**

The Detection Line Of Sight defines the distance up to which another aircraft can be detected in time and sufficient time is available for an avoidance manoeuvre. Ground visibility (GV) is a key factor to determine DLOS.

$$\text{DLOS}_{\text{max}} = 0.3 \cdot GV$$

GV is dependent on the existing ground visibility at the location and time of operation (see below). However,  $GV_{\text{max}} = 5\text{km}$  always applies.

- **GV - Ground Visibility:**

The Ground visibility depends on the location and meteorological conditions and must be determined at the time of operation. The procedure for determining ground visibility must be described in the operational documentation. The use of landmarks or the use of a transmissometer are possible methods to determine GV.

The maximum ground visibility that can be assumed is 5 kilometers, similar to the visibility according to the VFR visual ranges for airspace G.

## VLOS & Controlled Ground Area (SORA 2.0)

- VLOS should be used only in relation to air risk,
- For ground risk : VLOS to ground = ‘visual ground observation’
- When the operation is in ‘visual ground observation’ no fence is needed to claim controlled ground area (only for VLOS)



Ref. FOCA Guidance Material ([FOCA-UAS-GM-Part 1](#))



## Question from Webinar #2 :

Do you have any statistics on past occurrences/incidents with drones?

### **Main Data sources:**

- [Safety Annual Reports \(admin.ch\)](#)
- [Stay Safe by BAZL \(admin.ch\)](#)
- [Rapports d'événements aviation - Service suisse d'enquête de sécurité SESE \(admin.ch\)](#)
- [UAS - Air Accidents Investigation Branch reports - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)
- [Drones/UAS Archives – CHIRP](#)
- [EASA issues guidelines for management of drone incidents at airports | EASA \(europa.eu\)](#)
- [\(PDF\) Exploring Civil Drone Accidents and Incidents to Help Prevent Potential Air Disasters \(researchgate.net\)](#)



# Question from Webinar #3 :

## How the define my containment requirements based on my adjacent areas/airspace



Ref. FOCA Guidance Material ([FOCA-UAS-GM-Part 1](#))

### 9 Step #9 - Adjacent area / airspace considerations and containment requirements

#### 9.1 Types of Containments

SORA V2.0 distinguishes between two different versions of containment:

- "Basic" containment: Point 2.5.3b applies to all operations regardless of what is included in adjacent areas.
- "Enhanced" containment: Point 2.5.3c applies to operations where one of the triggers in section 9.4 is true for the operation (higher risk involved).

To assess which type of containment applies, some considerations regarding adjacent (ground) areas and airspaces are required:

#### 9.2 Adjacent (ground) area definition

Consider areas on the ground at most 1 km away from the operational volume (see §1.1 and Figure 2)

#### 9.3 Adjacent airspace size definition

For the assessment of adjacent airspace, identify what type(s) of airspace is/are immediately touching the edge of the Operational Volume (i.e. normally touching the edge of Contingency Volume).

Refer mainly to the "No-Fly zone" (airport, heliport and aerodrome environment) and the "Limited no-fly zone" (CTR – Controlled Zone) depicted on the [restrictions for drones layer of swisstopo maps](#). For awareness regarding all types of airspace (including e.g. TMAs, airspace C) please consult the [ICAO Chart](#) and the [Glider Chart](#).

- No-fly zone (5km from the runway or adapted zone)
- Limited no-fly zone (150 m above the ground)

#### 9.4 Assessment on triggers for Enhanced Containment

## FOCA AltMOC on Containment (Step 9)



### Enhanced containment triggers

(c) The following three safety requirements apply for operations:

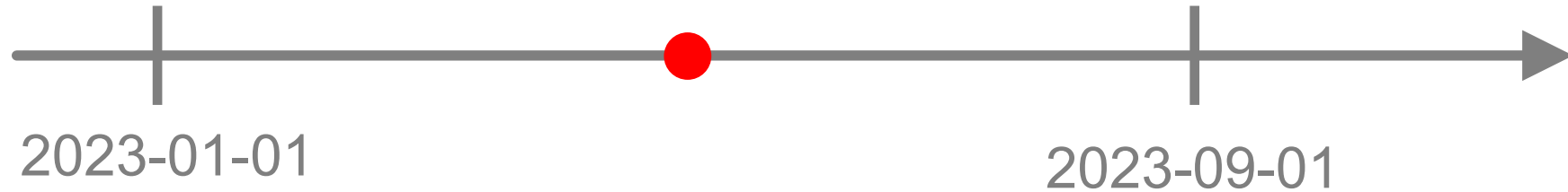
- Where a large assembly of people (~20,000 ppl or more) is present within 1km distance from the operational volume, unless already approved for operations over assemblies of people. Applicant has a procedures in place to check this before each operation.
- Where adjacent areas are populated areas:
  - i. And a M1 mitigation of Medium or High robustness has been applied, unless the mitigation applies also to adjacent areas;
  - ii. Operation is conducted over a controlled ground area.
- Height of the operational volume is above 150m altitude AGL, where adjacent airspace is ARC-D. ATC or Competent authority permit is needed before the operation.
- With an UAS larger than the 3m class flown in airport environment.

1. The probability of leaving the operational volume shall be less than  $10^{-4}/FH$ .
2. No single failure<sup>k</sup> of the UAS or any external system supporting the operation shall lead to operation outside of the ground risk buffer. Compliance with the requirements above shall be substantiated by analysis and/or test data with supporting evidence.
3. Software (SW) and Airborne Electronic Hardware (AEH) whose development error(s) could directly lead to operations outside of the ground risk buffer shall be developed to an industry standard or methodology recognized as adequate by the competent authority.





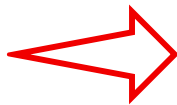
# Transitional Period



8-months transitional period: From 01.01.2023 until 31.08.2023

Exemptions from the OPEN category

Aim: Allow operators to obtain an authorization



## Attention !

Plan enough time, i.e. 3-4 months for a SORA

**Apply ASAP**



# The End

- Consult FOCA's website frequently for more information and guidance
- Check the drone map before each flight to be aware of the latest flight restrictions
- Subscribe to the "Innovation and Digitalization" newsletter

For any questions: [rpas@bazl.admin.ch](mailto:rpas@bazl.admin.ch)

THANK YOU



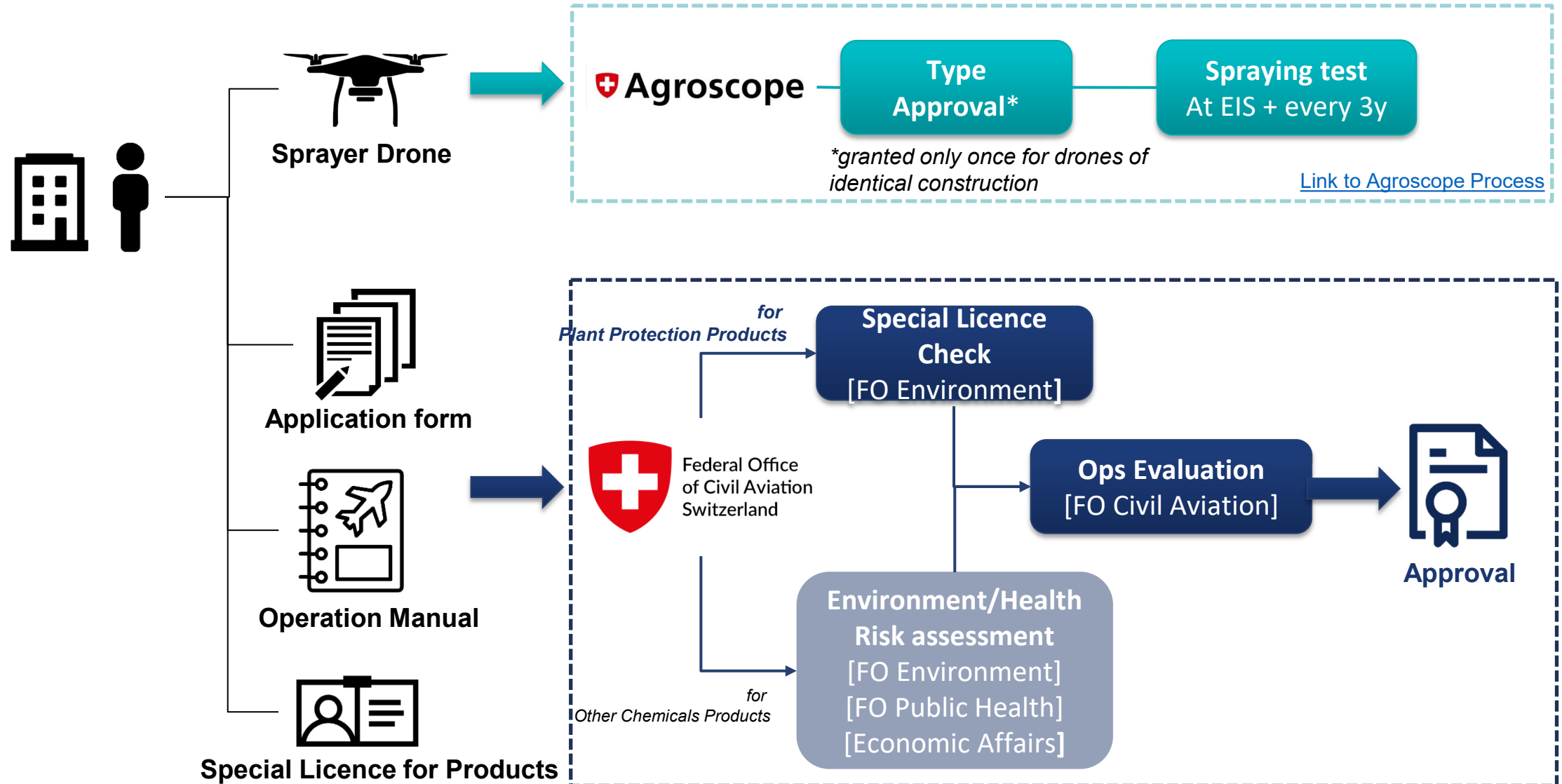
# **BACK-UP SLIDES**

Further information





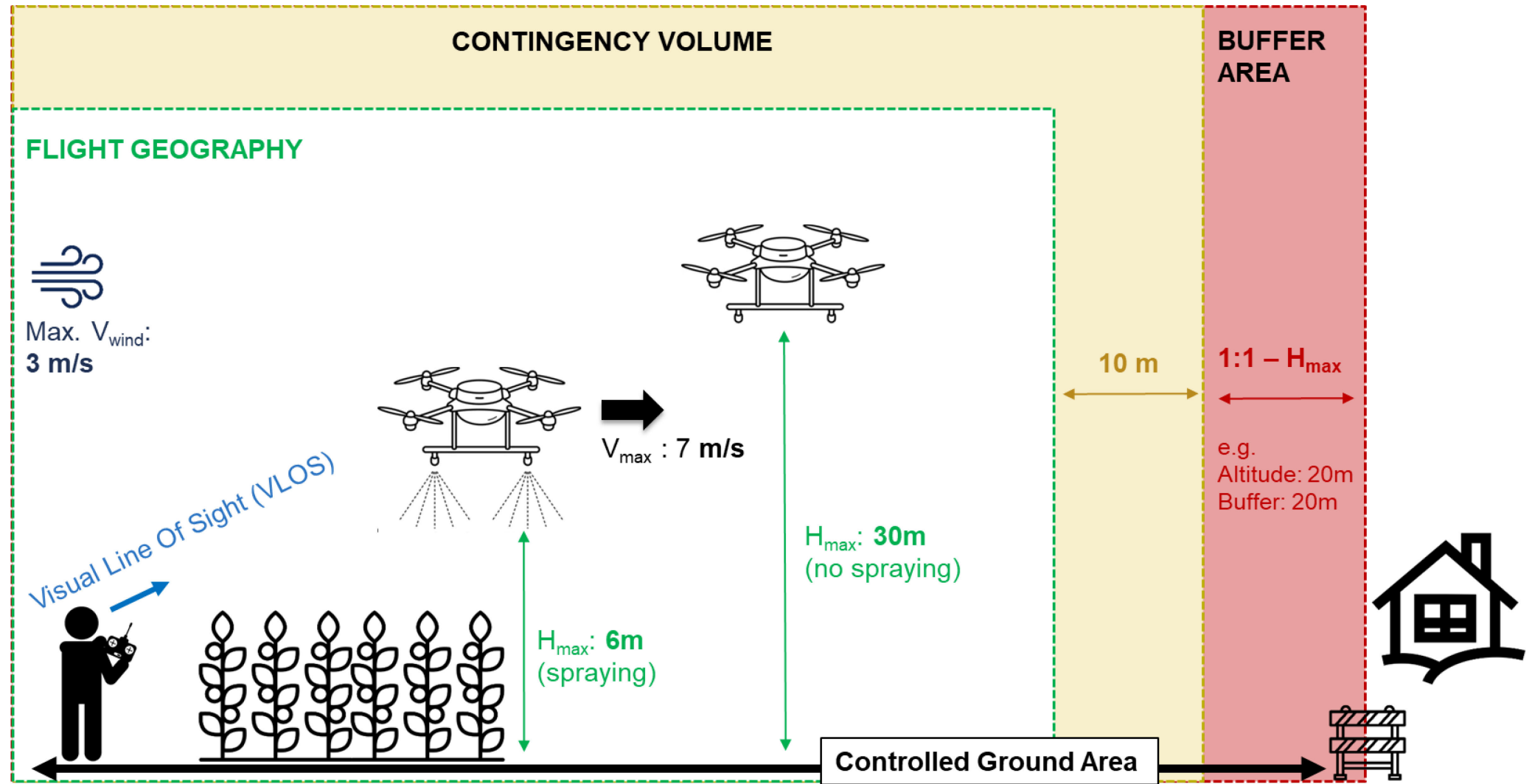
# Spraying STS Application Process





# CH-STS: Spraying / Agriculture applications

STS





# The safety assessment approach – SORA

SORA

Step 1 – CONOPS Description

Step 2 – Initial Ground Risk Class

Step 3 – Final Ground Risk Class

Step 4 – Initial Air Risk Class

Step 5 – Final Air Risk Class

Step 6 – TMPR<sup>1</sup> and Robustness Levels

Step 7 – SAIL<sup>2</sup> Determination

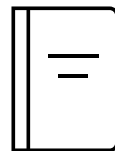
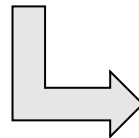
Step 8 – Operational Safety Objectives

Step 9 – Adjacent area / airspace

Step 10 – Safety Portfolio

<sup>1</sup>Tactical Mitigation Performance Requirements

<sup>2</sup> Specific Assurance and Integrity Levels



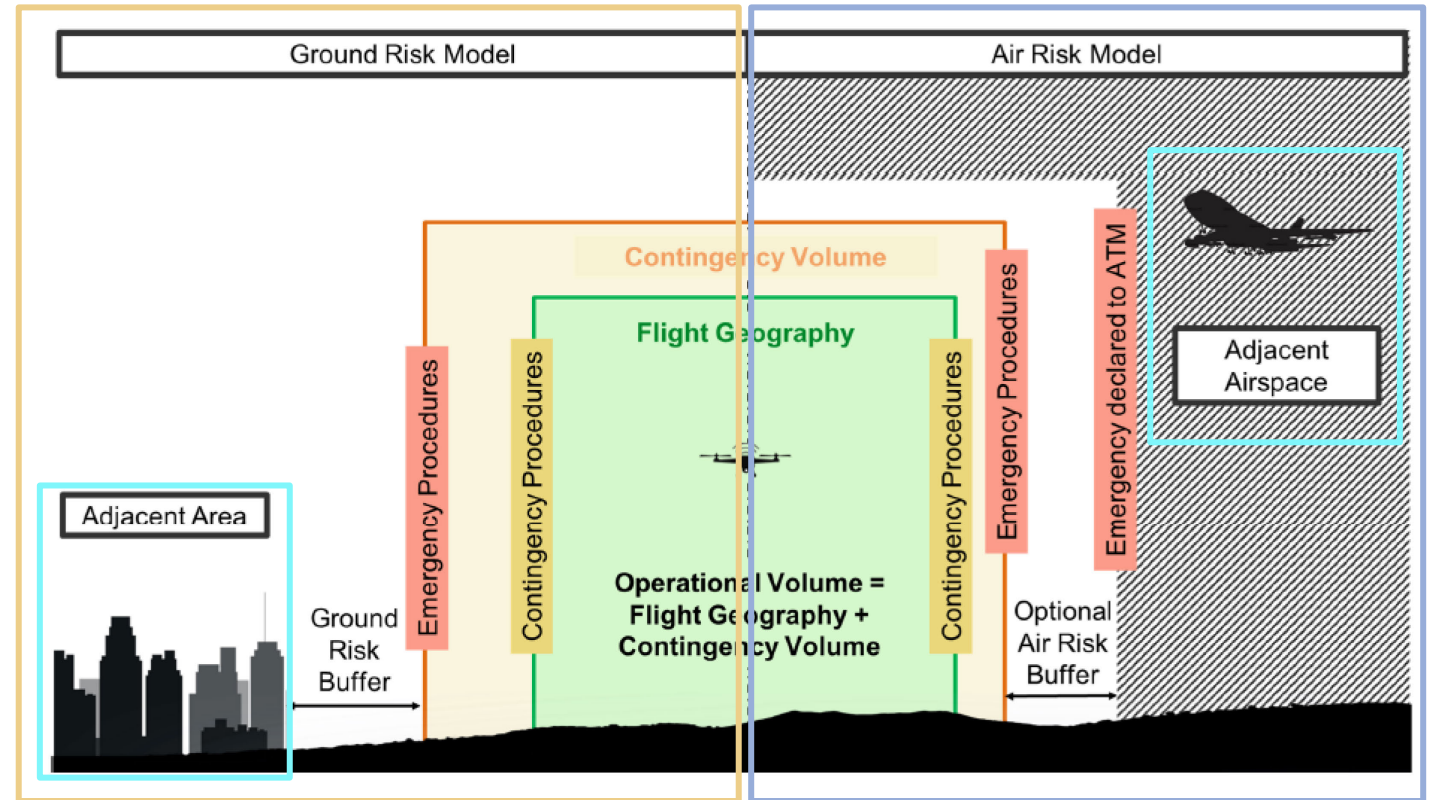
Operations  
Manual



Test reports



Other evidences



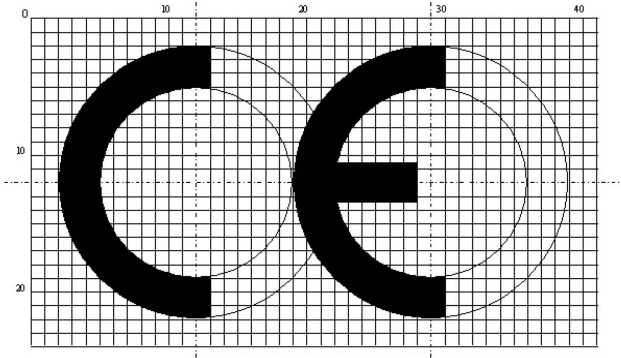




# CE Marking vs. Class Identification Label

## CE marking

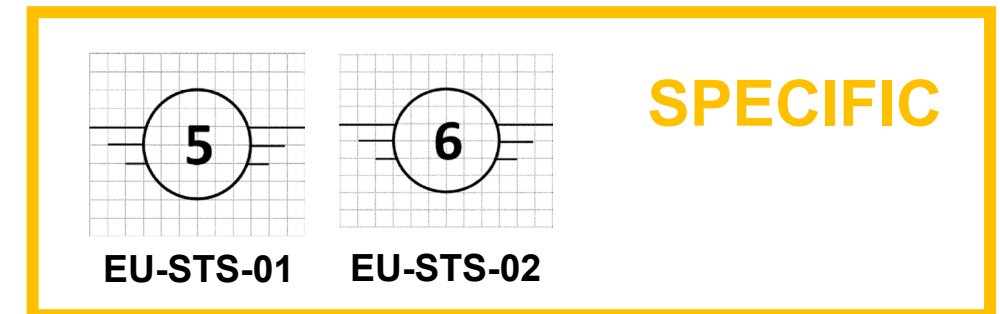
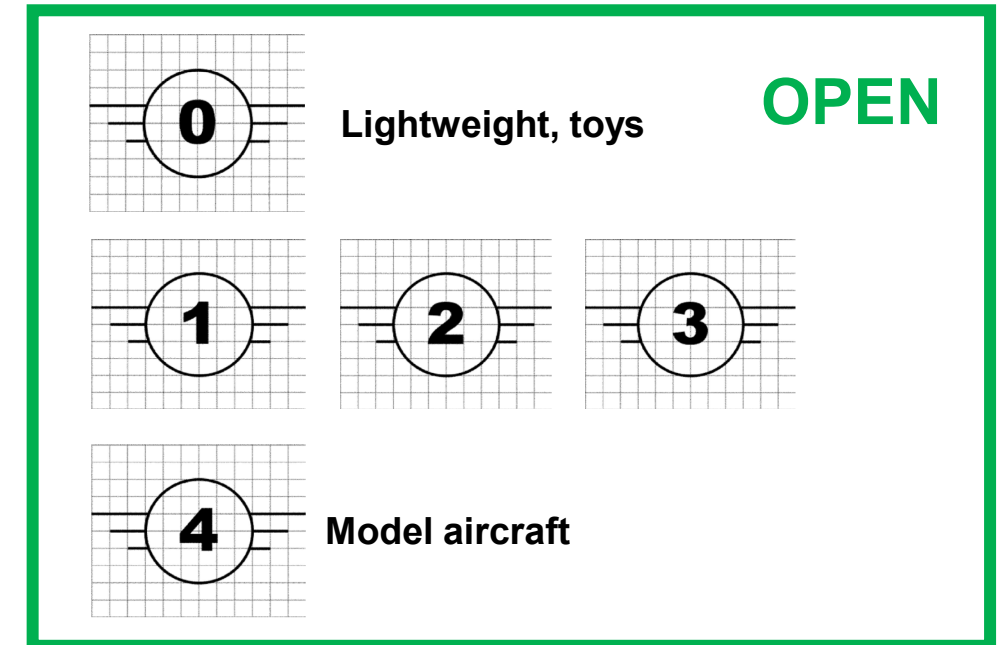
The manufacturer affirms the product's conformity with *all* the relevant European *health, safety and environmental protection* requirements.



**Attention:** It is forbidden to fly a drone without CE marking!

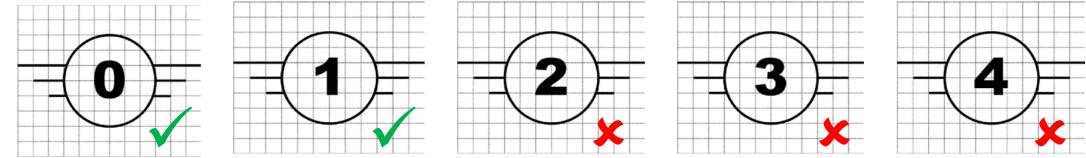
**Exception:** Self-built drones  
(no CE & C label required)

## Class identification label (“C”)

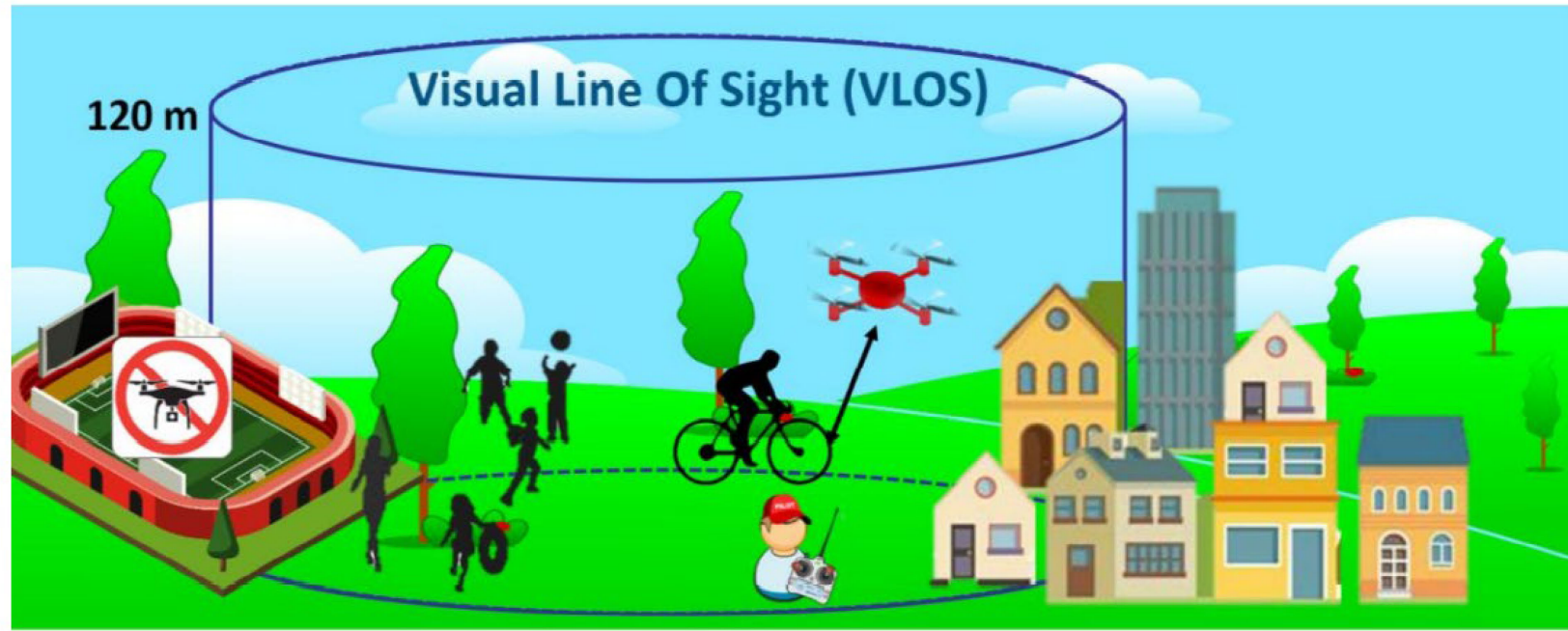




# OPEN A1

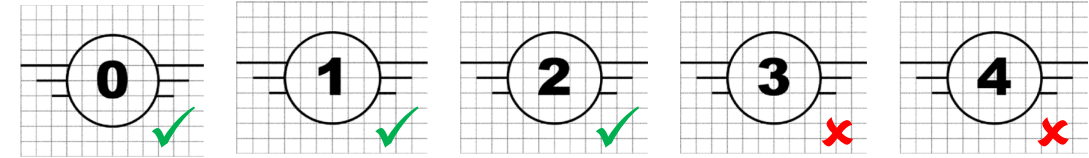


- Class labels: C0 and C1
- Forbidden to fly over crowds
- Reasonably expect not to fly over uninvolved people

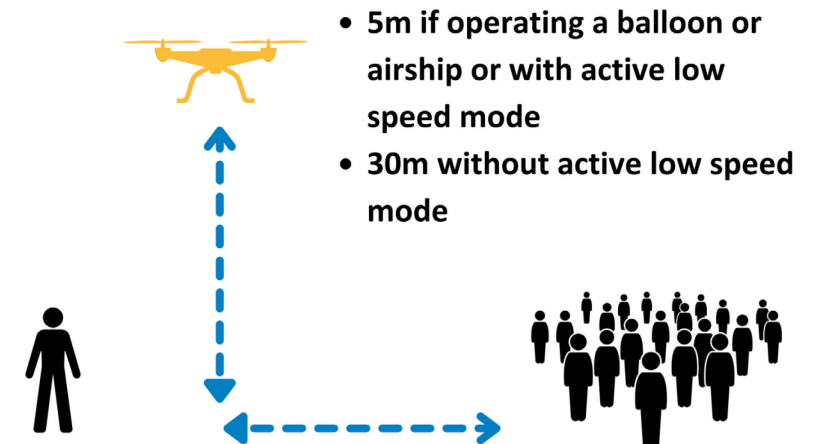
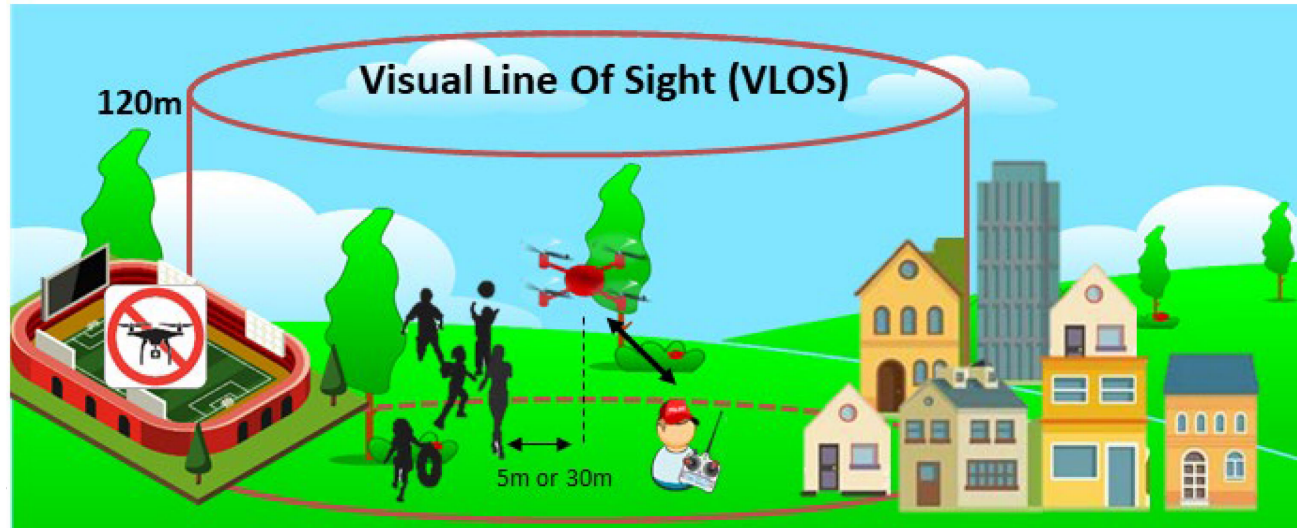




# OPEN A2

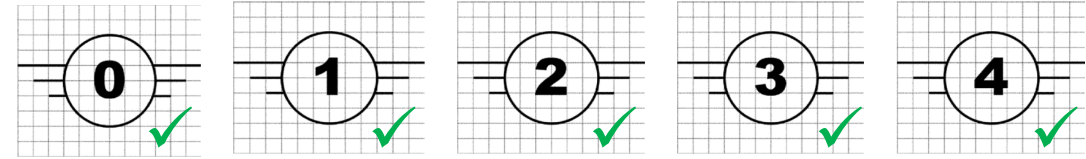


- Class labels: C0, C1, C2
- Horizontal distance to uninvolved persons:
  - According to the **1:1 rule** → safety distance  $\geq$  height
  - Lower limit depending on low-speed mode (3m/s):
    - Without low-speed mode: **30m**
    - With activated low-speed mode: **5m**

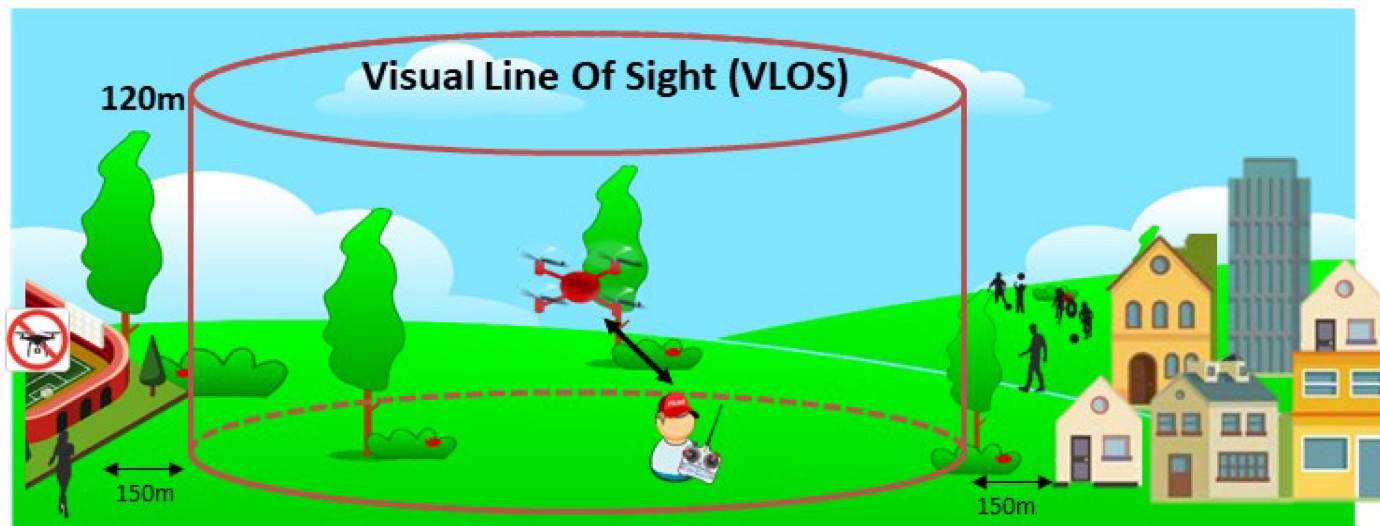




# OPEN A3



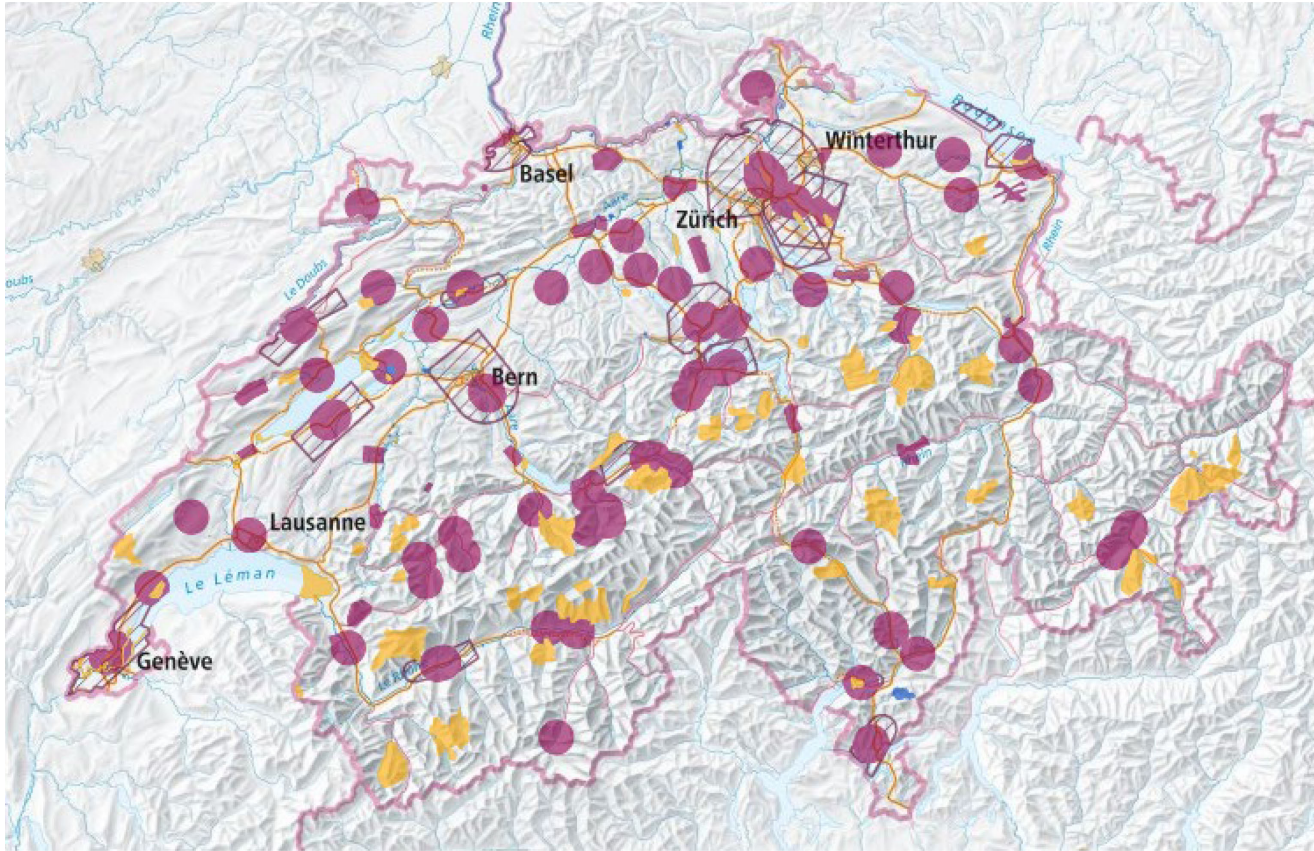
- Class labels: C0, C1, C2, C3, C4
- Horizontal distance to uninvolved persons:
  - According to the **1:1 rule** and never lower than **30m**, or
  - Distance of **2s** with max speed (which ever is higher)
- At least **150m** away from residential, commercial or industrial areas







# Drone Map: Geozones



<https://map.geo.admin.ch/?layers=ch.bazl.einschraenkungen-drohnen>

## Existing ones:

- 5km around airports
- Control zone (CTR)
- Wildlife reserves

## New:

- Military infrastructure
- Airport perimeter
- Nuclear power plants
- Certain energy infrastructure
- Prisons
- Cantonal geozones



# Remote Pilots: Training / Certificates

## OPEN

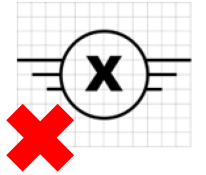
Category	Class	Certificate
A1	C0	None
A1	..., C1	A1/A3
A2	..., C2	A1/A3 + A2
A3	..., C3, C4	A1/A3
Exception: No certificate required for remote pilots flying model aircraft according to CoGP		

## SPECIFIC

Category	Class	Certificate
STS-CH	-	A1/A3 + A2
STS-EU	C5, C6	A1/A3 + STS
PDRA-S	-	A1/A3 + STS
PDRA-G	-	Case-specific
SORA	-	Case-specific



# Transitional Category: Drones without C-Label



Until 2023-12-31

Weight	Certificate	Operation in	Additional operating restrictions
< 250g	Not required	A1	None
< 500g	A1/A3	A1	None
< 2kg	A1/A3 + A2	A2	Horizontal safety distance of at least <b>50m</b> to uninvolved persons
< 25kg	A1/A3	A3	None

WIP: Exemption to have same restrictions as in regular A2



From 2024-01-01

Weight	Certificate	Operation in	Additional operating restrictions
< 250g	Not required	A1	None
< 25kg	A1/A3	A3	None

Note:  
< 2kg drones will fall into the < 25kg class

