

EU Drone Training



SAFE DRONE ACADEMY

**Expert EU Drone Training for
Pilots of All Levels**



EU Drone Operations: A Guide

European Union (EU) Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) operations are governed by Regulation (EU) 2019/947, which divides the industry into two primary operational categories: the **Open (A1, A2 & A3)** and **Specific** categories. These categories encompass both recreational and commercial operations, addressing lower-risk (Open) and higher-risk or more complex (Specific) operations.

Each category mandates specific competency standards for Remote Pilots, contingent upon the nature of the operation (Open A1/A3, Open A2, or Specific).

Further, regulations distinguish between a **UAS Operator** and a **Remote Pilot**. The UAS Operator oversees the operation's management, while the Remote Pilot holds responsibility for the actual flight. In some cases, a single individual may assume the role of both the UAS Operator and the Remote Pilot, and this is often the case for recreational pilots or sole traders.

Within a medium to large organisation, such as a private limited company, the division is often clearer, where company directors oversee the management of UAS operations, while employees act as Remote Pilots.

Finally, newcomers to the market need to grasp the significance of the regulations requirement for a minimum standard of design, manufacture, and functionality with respect to unmanned aircraft. These standards, referred to as '**C Labelling**', are obligatory for unmanned aircraft conducting Open Category operations. For 'legacy' aircraft lacking a C Label, they are now restricted to Open A3 operations only, unless their weight is under 250 grams.

Compliance with these regulations is overseen by a competent authority. In Ireland, this authority is the Irish Aviation Authority (IAA).

The first essential step for both Remote Pilots and UAS Operators is setting up an account with the IAA.



C Labels affixed to Unmanned Aircraft Required for Open Category Operations.



DJI Mavic 3 Classic with C1 Label

First Steps

1. Create an Account with the Irish Aviation Authority (IAA): ([Guidance](#))

- Visit [IAA's registration page](#).
- Sign up with your email and password.
- Complete your account details and upload identification (e.g., passport) for verification.

2. Register as a UAS Operator:

- UAS Operators must register within their MYSRS account. ([Guidance](#))

3. Complete A1/A3 (initial competency) Remote Pilot Course within MYSRS account:

- Within MYSRS account, complete online course and answer 40 multiple-choice questions. For exam preparation and guidance, consider the [Open A1/A3 Remote Pilot Preparatory Course](#) by Safe Drone Academy.

Open A1 Sub-Category: You can fly under Open A1 rules if your unmanned aircraft weighs less than 250g or has a C0 or C1 label. Example unamend aircraft include DJI Mini 2/3/4, Autel Evo Nano.

Basic Rule: Fly in Visual Line of Sight (VLOS) of the unmanned aircraft. Stay within 120m of the earth's surface. Do not fly in [Geographic Zones](#) where there are Open Category restrictions.

- **Open A3 Sub-Category:** if your unmanned aircraft weighs between 250g and less than 25kg or has a C2, C3, or C4 label. Example unmanned aircraft include DJI Mavic Air Series, DJI Mavic 2/3, DJI Phantom Series, DJI M30, DJI M300.
- *Basic Rule:* Fly in Visual Line of Sight (VLOS) of the unmanned aircraft. Stay within 120m of the earth's surface. Ensure your flying area is no closer than 150m from Populated Areas (Residential, Commercial, Industrial and Recreational Areas). Ensure there are no uninvolved persons in your flying area. Do not fly in [Geographic Zones](#) where there are Open Category Restrictions.

5. Optional: EU Open A2 Sub-Category Operations:

- If your unmanned aircraft has a C2 label, you can consider operating under Open A2 rules. Open A2 permits operations in populated areas and close to uninvolved persons. This is achievable with unmanned aircraft larger than permitted under Open A1. The additional remote pilot competency to acquire the Open A2 Certificate of Competency mitigates the additional risk of using these larger and more capable aircraft close to uninvolved persons.

The additional competency is a more appropriate standard for those remote pilots who operate commercially and is a better option than the basic Open A1/A3 qualification. Example Drones include DJI Mavic 3 Pro, DJI M30.

- A remote pilot must also complete the Open A2 exam and receive the Open A2 Certificate of Competency.

Basic Rule: Fly in Visual Line of Sight (VLOS) of the unmanned aircraft. Stay within 120m of the earth's surface. Remain a minimum 30m laterally from uninvolved persons. This can reduce to 5m in specific circumstance. Do not fly in [Geographic Zones](#) where there are Open Category restrictions.

6. Complete Open A2 Training with Safe Drone Academy:

- Visit [Safe Drone Academy's EU Open A2 Remote Pilot Course](#) for the course details.

7. Apply for the EU Open A2 Certificate of Competency:

- This application is made through the IAA's MYSRS platform and is signed off by **Safe Drone Academy**.

8. Specific Category Operations:

- If Open category rules are too limiting for your operations, move to the Specific category, which involves more advanced training for Remote Pilots and UAS Operators applying to the aviation authority for Specific permission to operate in more high-risk operating areas. Alternatively, and regardless of which category of operation you wish to operate in, take this course if you wish to acquire the most knowledge a Remote Pilot can attain.
- Visit [Safe Drone Academy's EU STS Specific Remote Pilot Course](#) for the course details.
- Reasons to operate in the Specific Category.
 - Operate in [Geographic Zones](#) where Open Category operations are prohibited.
 - Operate larger unmanned aircraft in Populated Areas. (Open A3 Restriction)
 - Fly Beyond Line of Sight (BLOS).
 - Operate higher than 120m.
 - Fly unmanned aircraft heavier than 25kg.

9. Cost:

Safe Drone Open A1/A3 Pilot Course	€29pp	IAA UAS Operator Registration	€38/2Yrs
Safe Drone Open A2 Course & Exam	€149pp	IAA Open A1/A3 Course	€40/5Yrs
Safe Drone STS Course, Exam, Practical	€795pp	IAA Open A2 Certificate	€100/5Yrs
Safe Drone Practical Training	From €500	IAA Specific Certificate	€150/5yrs

10. Contact

We can't wait to partner with you on your journey. For more information on course, schedules, and group rates & booking.



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Open A1/A3 Remote Pilot Preparatory Course

Open A1/A3 Course Profile

This course encompasses the minimum theory training required for remote pilots in the EU Open Category, sub-categories A1 and A3. Fly for fun, work, or other commercial purposes. With this course you can prepare for the 40-question Irish Aviation Authority (IAA). The course is valuable for all remote pilots wish to understand the basics the EU unmanned aircraft regulation basics, aviation safety, airmanship, unmanned aircraft, and basic human performance.

The Open A1/A3 remote pilot certificate is the foundation for all other unmanned aircraft pilot certificates. It is the most basic certificate required to fly unmanned aircraft in the European Union, and it is the first step for all remote pilots, regardless of their experience or purpose.

Group bookings and in-house training available. Contact us today!

Step 1: Purchase the course here [Open A1/A3 Remote Pilot Preparatory Course](#)

Step 2. Complete your online self-paced Open A1A3 theory course on Safe Drone Academy's Learning Management System (LMS) (2hr: Watch. Read. Learn.).

Step 3. Complete a practice exam to prepare yourself for the IAA exam.

Step 4. Open your IAA MYSRS account and complete the IAA exam.

Certificate: Course completion certificate from Safe Drone Academy. The official IAA Open A1/A3 Proof of Completion of Online Training is awarded by the IAA through their MYSRS platform. The Open A1/A3 POOT certificate is valid all through the EU and for 5 years.

Open A2 Remote Pilot Regulatory Course

This course is the full EU regulatory course. Attending it is required to attain the Open A2 Certificate of Competency. The examination is completed in-house by Safe Drone Academy and is included in the course price. The remote pilot certificate is issued by the IAA after sign-off by Safe Drone Academy.

Open A2 Course Profile

Safe Drone Academy's EU Open A2 course encompasses a theory course, an IAA multiple-choice exam, and a self-practical training guidance document. The course is online and self-paced so can be started at any time and taken in the comfort of your own environment. Our course is highly regarded (see [Google](#) reviews) and our Learning Management System (LMS) is a joy to use and operate.

Group bookings and in-house training can be arranged. Please contact us.

Step 1: Purchase the course here [Safe Drone Academy's EU Open A2 Remote Pilot Course](#)

Step 2. Complete your online self-paced Open A2 theory course on Safe Drone Academy's Learning Management System (LMS) (5hr: Watch. Read. Learn.).

Step 3. On completion of Step 2, register for the IAA Open A2 online exam. We run the IAA exam on a weekly basis. You book your preferred date and time using our online booking system found at the end of Step 2. Our online exam sessions are conducted using our cloud-based exam monitoring software. During the exam, you will be required to have a functioning webcam and microphone, a mobile phone, share your screen, take a photo of yourself, and take a photo of your ID. Your exam session will be monitored live by a Safe Drone Academy proctor. The exam system is fully GDPR compliant. During Step 2 we have plenty of progress tests and a practice exam to get you ready for the exam. Our pass rate is over 98%!

Step 4. On successful completion of the exam, download our Self-Practical Training Guide and practice the required Normal, Contingency & Emergency procedures. No instructor is involved. Train yourself by following the guide.

Step 5. Apply to the Irish Aviation Authority (IAA) for your Open A2 certificate. We provide a step-by-step guide. Safe Drone Academy will be involved in this process as we sign you off on the MYSRS system as compliant. (IAA charge €100 for the certificate).

Certificate: The Open A2 Certificate of Competency is valid for 5 years and across the EU.

Specific Category STS Remote Pilot Regulatory Course

This course is the full EU regulatory course. Attending it is required to attain the STS remote pilot competency course. The examination is completed in-house by Safe Drone Academy and is included in the course price. The remote pilot certificate is issued by the IAA after sign-off by Safe Drone Academy.

The course is required by those remote pilots who fly for UAS Operators with **Operational Authorisations** (permission to operate) from aviation authorities. It comprehensively addresses the essential competencies that remote pilots need to possess in alignment with STS/PDRA requirements.

Upon the successful completion of this advanced training program, remote pilots will attain two distinct certifications.

Firstly, the Irish Aviation Authority (IAA) will confer the **'Remote Pilot Certificate of Theoretical Knowledge'** to the remote pilot following completion of the theory exam. Exam & signoff by Safe Drone Academy.

In addition, Safe Drone Academy will grant an **'Accreditation for the Completion of Practical Training'** to the remote pilot once the practical assessment has been successfully completed with Safe Drone Academy.

Both certificates are prerequisites for remote pilots embarking on STS/PDRA operations, ensuring their competence and adherence to regulatory standards.

Our course is highly regarded (see [Google](#) reviews) and our Learning Management System (LMS) is a joy to use and operate.

Group bookings and in-house training can be arranged. Please contact us.

Step 1: Purchase the course here [Safe Drone Academy's EU STS Specific Remote Pilot Course](#)

Step 2: Self-Paced Theory - Complete online self-paced learning elements (approx. 8hrs). Watch. Read. Learn. There are multiple videos, reading summaries and progress checks to help you along your journey. Please ensure you complete this element of your course before attending Step 2 'Live Theory' session.

Step 3: Live Theory - Join us for the live-theory event. This is a live-webinar session currently held over one full day (0900 - 1700). During this event you will cover some of the more complex theory subjects with the help of an instructor. You need to book this event to receive your link. Book your attendance can be booked through an online calendar found at the end of Step 1. Live theory course take place once a month.

Step 4: Theory Exam - Post the live theory session, allowing you some time to reflect on your learning, you can join us on a scheduled exam day. The exam is online using our exam monitoring system. The basic exam comprises of 40 multiple choice questions with a 75% pass mark. Don't worry, we have a student manual and plenty of practice exam questions you can use to help you revise. The exam covers elements from both the self-paced and live theory sessions. We schedule weekly exams so you will find a date and time that is convenient for you.

Step5: Practical Training - Following completion of the theory exam, you will be required to attend a practical training day. Details of these dates are advertised to you once you have completed the theory exam. You will be provided with a logbook record of your training. Following the training you consolidate your competency through self-practical training and finally attending the Practical Assessment.

Step 6: Practical Assessment - Complete practical assessment. We will schedule a approximately 2.5hrs for your assessment. The practical assessment is 1:1. We provide detailed guidance on the assessment through our LMS.

Operational Authorisation

When a UAS Operator finds the restrictions or limitations of the Open Category too restrictive, operating in the Specific Category becomes necessary. In the Specific Category, UAS operators can attain an **operational authorisation** (permission) to conduct higher-risk or more complex operations that are otherwise prohibited within the Open Category. The **operational authorisation** is not a remote pilot certificate it is a UAS operator permission.

- Reasons to operate in the Specific Category.
 - Operate in [Geographic Zones](#) where Open Category operations are prohibited.
 - Operate larger unmanned aircraft in Populated Areas. (Open A3 Restriction)
 - Fly Beyond Line of Sight (BLOS).
 - Operate higher than 120m.
 - Fly unmanned aircraft heavier than 25kg.

A key element of the Specific category is the UAS Operator is required to hold an **operational authorisation**, which has been issued by the competent authority e.g., Irish Aviation Authority (IAA).

This **operational authorisation** is a legal document and permission to operate. It is based on a safety risk assessment that is produced by the UAS operator or, in some circumstances, has been **Pre-Defined** by the European Aviation Safety Agency (EASA).

The **operational authorisation** document sets out the privileges and limits of the UAS Operation i.e., the rules, locations, airspace, and types of aircraft the holder will need to comply with.

Each **operational authorisation** is specific to the named UAS operator and is dependent on the risk assessment and evidence supplied by that operator.

The application to the competent authority for an operational authorisation includes,

1. Operations (procedures) manual.
2. Risk Assessment or if using a [Pre-Defined Risk Assessment \(PDRA\)](#), a compliance document.
3. Supporting safety information.

It is important to note,

1. The UAS Operator must hold a valid operational authorisation before conducting operations.
2. Remote pilots hold the Specific STS competency certificate or meet the competency standards outlined in the risk assessment.

Safe Drone Academy can help with operations manual templates, risk assessments, compliance documents etc on a consultancy basis. Please contact us directly to discuss your options and a pathway forward.

