

Official Record Series 5

United Kingdom
Civil Aviation Authority



CAA Scheme of Charges	No:	457
Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems (RPAS)	Publication date:	16 March 2026
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The Civil Aviation Authority, pursuant to Section 11 of the Civil Aviation Act 1982 and after consulting the persons who, in its opinion, are likely to be affected by the Scheme or such of those persons as it thinks fit, and after consulting with the Secretary of State, hereby makes a Scheme for determining the charges to be paid to the CAA in connection with the performance by the CAA of the functions conferred on it by or under the assimilated regulations UK (EU) 2019/947 and UK (EU) 2019/945 listed in section 2 below:

Excess Hour Charges

The CAA has identified within this Scheme those charges which are subject to excess hour charges at the point that the initial charge no longer covers the costs incurred in carrying out the specified activity. In order to determine the equivalent number of hours of CAA time for which the initial charge covers, and where not already otherwise stated, the charge should be divided by the appropriate hourly rate quoted, rounded up to the nearest whole hour. Where the CAA is required to engage third-party services to fulfil its regulatory obligations due to limitations in internal capacity or capability, the associated costs may be charged to the applicant, subject to prior agreement. These charges will be in addition to any standard fees listed in this Scheme of Charges.

1 REVOCATION

- 1.1 The Scheme of Charges published by the CAA on 17 March 2025 determining the charges to be paid to the CAA in connection with the performance by the CAA of the aforesaid functions is hereby revoked.
- 1.2 Section 16(1) of the Interpretation Act 1978 (which relates to the effect of repeals) shall apply to this Scheme as if this Scheme were an enactment and as if the Scheme of 17 March 2025 revoked by paragraph 1.1 above was an enactment thereby repealed.

2 CHARGES INDEX

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3 CHARGES

3.1 Specific category operational authorisation Unmanned aircraft systems (UAS) (SORA OA PDRA01 OA & AltMOC OA) Article 12 UK (EU) 2019/947 and LUCs

3.1.1 On making an initial application or reapplication for an Operational Authorisation or Light UAS Certificate issued by CAA under assimilated regulation UK (EU) 2019/947 and for receiving advice or other regulatory services, the applicant shall pay to the CAA the relevant charge or charges specified in Table 1.

Table 1:

Application Type	Application	Reapplication Charge (Note 1)
Column 1	Column 2	Column 3
Specific category operational authorisation – Pre-Defined Risk Assessments (PDRA)		
Declarative	£524	£524
Non-Declarative	£2,288	£2,288
Specific category operational authorisation – Specific Operations Risk Assessment (SORA)		
• SAIL I (Note 2)	£2,422	£2,422
• SAIL II Initial application & non-technical reapplication (Note 3)	£3,806	£3,806
• SAIL III initial application & non-technical reapplication (Note 4)	£10,380	£6,910
• SAIL IV initial application & non-technical reapplication (Note 5)	£13,840	£9,214
• SAIL V/VI initial application & non-technical renewal (Note 6)	£17,300	£11,517
Specific category operational authorisation – Alternative Means of Compliance (Note 7)	£2,422	£2,422
Specific category – Light UAS certificate (LUC) (Note 8)	£6,933	£2,423
Issue of a duplicate operational authorisation	£113	N/A
CAA regulatory advice, guidance and supporting activities (Note 9)	£346	N/A
Excess Charges, calculated as referenced in the Notes below		

NOTES

- 1 A reapplication only applies where no changes have been made to the previous year's application. A reapplication which involves changes in either documentation or operating requirements or in the view of the CAA materially affects or changes the nature of the operation, must be either be submitted as a variation application (where this is AltMOC OA or an administrative variation of any OA- see Table 2 below), or as an initial application if not (if relates to a SORA OA). Any reapplication received after the expiry date will be returned and must be re-submitted as an initial application accompanied by the charge in Column 2, Table 1 above
- 2 The charge payable includes up to 7 hours of CAA assessment and covers the activity worked on for the application plus an allowance for platform costs. Excess charges of £346 per hour will also apply and are payable on demand.
- 3 The charge payable includes up to 11 hours of CAA assessment and covers the activity worked on for the application plus an allowance for platform costs. Excess charges of £346 per hour will also apply and are payable on demand.
- 4 The charge payable includes up to 30 hours of CAA assessment and covers the activity worked on for the application plus an allowance for platform costs. Excess charges of £346 per hour will also apply and are payable on demand.
- 5 The charge payable includes up to 40 hours of CAA assessment and covers the activity worked on for

the application plus an allowance for platform costs. Excess charges of £346 per hour will also apply and are payable on demand.

- 6 The charge payable includes up to 50 hours of CAA assessment and covers the activity worked on for the application plus an allowance for platform costs. Excess charges of £346 per hour will also apply and are payable on demand.
- 7 The charge payable includes up to 7 hours of CAA assessment and covers the activity worked on for the application plus an allowance for platform costs. Excess charges of £346 per hour will also apply and are payable on demand.
- 8 The charge payable on application for a Light UAS Certificate (LUC) under assimilated regulation UK (EU) 2019/947 Part C UAS.LUC.010 includes up to 20 hours CAA assessment hours and excess charges of £346 per hour of CAA assessment will also apply up to a maximum of £40,015 per year or part of a year.
- 9 The CAA provides an initial 90 minutes of regulatory advice, guidance, and any other supporting activities within the scope of RPAS regulation free of charge. Thereafter, any additional regulatory advice, guidance and supporting activities will be charged at £346 for each additional hour or part of an hour incurred up to a maximum of £199,423 per year or part of a year. Any chargeable time will be invoiced in arrears by the CAA to the potential applicant and payable on demand.

- 3.1.2 An application which involves changes in either documentation or operating requirements to the previous year's application, or in the view of the CAA materially affects or changes the nature of the operation, must be submitted as a **variation application**. On making a variation application for an operational authorisation the applicant shall pay to the CAA the charge specified in Table 2.

Table 2

Application Type	Charge
Column 1	Column 2
Technical variations to OAs issued under an alternative means of compliance OA-AltMOC (Note 10)	£866
Administrative variations to SORA OAs, PDRA01 OAs and AltMOC OAs (Note 11)	£113
Excess Charges, calculated as referenced in the Notes below	

NOTES:

- 10 The technical variations to OA (AltMOC) application charge includes 2.5 hours of CAA assessment and excess charges of £346 per hour up to a maximum of £19,978 per year or part of a year will be charged and payable on demand.
- 11 An example of an application for an administrative variation is a change of Company Registered Name or company trading name. Please note that a new Company Registration Number cannot be processed as an Administrative Variation. A change of Company Registration number constitutes a change of legal identity and the relevant initial application must be made.

3.2 Recognised Assessment Entities for Remote Pilot Competency (RAE(PC))

- 3.2.1 On making an application for an initial or reapplication for approval or accreditation as an UK RAE(PC) to provide advice to the CAA whether that Remote Pilot meets the standards set out in Article 8(2) (and associated Acceptable Means of Compliance), the applicant shall pay to the CAA the charge in Table 3.

Table 3:

Application Type	Initial Application	Reapplication Charge (Note 12)
Column 1 (Note 16)	Column 2	Column 3
Recognised Assessment Entities for Remote Pilot Competency (RAE(PC))		

Application Type	Initial Application	Reapplication Charge (Note 12)
A2CofC/GVC Pilot Competency <u>and</u> Level 1 Pilot Competency (Note 13)	£4,844	£3,431
Level 2 Pilot Competency (Note 14)	£6,533	£3,431
Level 3 Pilot Competency (Note 15)	£9,800	£7,350
Variations (Note 17)	£982	N/A
Remote Pilot Certificates	£71	N/A
Excess Charges, calculated as referenced in the Notes below		

NOTES:

- 12 A reapplication assumes no changes have been made to the previous year's application. If an RAE needs to make changes at the time of reapplication, such as changes to the administrative set up of the RAE(PC), the RAE(PC) will be subject to additional hours of £346 per hour of CAA assessment will be charged and payable on demand.
- 13 The charge includes up to 15 CAA assessment hours and excess charges of £346 per hour of CAA assessment will be charged and payable on demand.
- 14 The charge includes up to 19 CAA assessment hours and excess charges of £346 per hour of CAA assessment will be charged and payable on demand.
- 15 The charge includes up to 29 CAA assessment hours and excess charges of £346 per hour of CAA assessment will be charged and payable on demand.
- 16 To increase the scope of an RAE(PC) approval or accreditation, to add a higher Level of competence, an RAE must already hold an approval at all lower Levels, e.g. it is not possible to hold an approval or accreditation only at level 3.
- If an approved or accredited RAE(PC) Level 1 PC wants to apply to increase their scope to Level 2 they must make a variation application and the minimum charge, payable on application, will be £1,960 which includes up to 6 CAA assessment hours and excess charges of £346 per hour of CAA assessment will be charged and payable on demand;
 - If an approved or accredited RAE(PC) Level 2 PC wants to apply to increase their scope to Level 3 they must make a variation application and the minimum charge, payable on application will be £3,267 which includes up to 10 CAA assessment hours and excess charges of £346 per hour of CAA assessment will be charged and payable on demand
- 17 Other than an application to vary the RPC Level, all variations to a RAE(PC) approval will be charged £982 payable on application. The charge includes up to 3 CAA assessment hours and excess charges of £346 per hour of CAA assessment will be charged and payable on demand plus excess hourly rate of £346 / hour will be charged and payable on demand.

3.3 Recognised Assessment Entities for Flightworthiness Assessment of UAS (RAE(F))

- 3.3.1 On making an application for an initial or reapplication for approval or accreditation as a UK RAE(F) to provide advice to the CAA on the flightworthiness of a UAS, the applicant shall pay to the CAA the charge in Table 4.

Table 4:

Application Type	Initial Application	Reapplication Charge (Note 18)
Column 1	Column 2	Column 3
Recognised Assessment Entities for Flightworthiness Assessment of UAS (RAE(F)) application charge (Note 19)	£9,800	£7,350
Variations (Note 20)	£982	N/A

Application Type	Initial Application	Reapplication Charge (Note 18)
Excess Charges, calculated as referenced in the Notes below		

NOTES:

- 18 A reapplication assumes no changes have been made to the previous year's application. If an RAE needs to make changes at the time of reapplication, such as changes to the administrative set up of the RAE(F), the RAE(F) will be subject to additional hours of £346 per hour of CAA assessment will be charged and payable on demand.
- 19 The charge includes up to 30 CAA assessment hours and excess charges of £346 per hour of CAA assessment will be charged and payable on demand.
- 20 The charge includes up to 3 CAA assessment hours and excess charges of £346 per hour of CAA assessment will be charged and payable on demand.

3.4 UK Drone and Model Aircraft Registration and Education Scheme (DMARES)

- 3.4.1 Any UAS operator who applies for an initial registration under Assimilated Regulation (EU) No. 2019/947 Article 14, and thereafter for an annual re-registration under the Scheme must pay to the CAA a charge of £12.34, payable upon each application for initial registration and thereafter on each application for annual re-registration to the CAA. The CAA DMARES website link: [Registering a drone or model aircraft | UK Civil Aviation Authority](#) provides more information.

3.5 Model Aircraft Article 16 Authorisation

- 3.5.1 On making an initial, variation or renewal application for an authorisation under article 16 of assimilated regulation UK (EU) 2019/947 the applicant shall pay to the CAA the relevant charge or charges in Table 5 below.

Table 5:

Application Type	Initial (Note 21)	Technical Variation (Note 22)	Administrative Variation	Annual Renewal Charge (Note 23)	Excess charges
Column 1	Column 2	Column 3	Column 4	Column 5	Column 6
Article 16 Authorisation	£2,426	£867	£113	£694	Calculated as referenced in the Notes below

NOTES:

- 21 The initial application charge covers 7 hours of work with any excess effort incurred charged at £346 per hour up to a maximum of £40,015 per year or part of a year.
- 22 Technical variations have been combined into a single fee which covers the equivalent of 2.5 hours work plus any excess hours, if required, which are charged at £346 per hour up to a maximum of £19,978. 'Technical Variation' refers to any changes that (in the CAA's opinion) materially affect or change the nature of the operation. Examples include; changes to operational procedures and/or processes, significant organisational changes or amendments to Operating Safety Cases/Risk Assessments.
- 23 Renewal of an authorisation assumes that there are no changes involved. A renewal which involves changes in either documentation or operating requirements will be charged as variation application. An application for a renewal of an authorisation must be submitted no earlier than 90 days before expiry date, any applications received after the expiry date will be treated as an Initial application.

3.6 Exemptions under Article 71 Regulation UK (EU) Regulation 2018/1139

Where the aircraft owner or operator makes an application to the CAA for an exemption, in accordance with the provisions of Article 71 of assimilated UK (EU) Regulation 2018/1139 (the UK Basic Regulation) or article 266 of the Air Navigation Order 2016, the applicant shall pay to the CAA a charge of £1,143 on application.

3.7 Alternative means of compliance

Other than when applying for an operational authorisation via AltMOC (see section 3.1 above), when making an application for the CAA to review an alternative means of compliance (AltMOC) that would allow the establishment of compliance with the assimilated regulations UK (EU) 2019/947 and UK (EU) 2019/945 other than in accordance with AMC adopted by the CAA, the applicant must pay to the CAA a charge of £980 on application. Should the CAA review exceed three hours, the applicant must pay to the CAA additional charges of £346 per hour for each of the excess hours expended by the CAA in dealing with the application or part thereof. All charges (other than the charge payable on application) are payable on demand.

3.8 Copies of documents

On making an application for the issue by the CAA of a copy or replacement of any document mentioned in this Scheme the applicant shall pay to the CAA a charge of £42.

3.9 Additional charge where functions are performed outside of the United Kingdom

An additional charge will be payable where, in connection with any function in respect of which a charge is specified in this Scheme, the CAA deems it necessary for a Member or employee of the CAA or any other person appointed to act on behalf of the CAA to travel outside the country in which such person is normally stationed.

The applicant or holder shall pay the CAA on demand, in addition to the appropriate charge specified in this Scheme, a charge of such amount as may be decided and invoiced by the CAA having regard to the expense thereby incurred by it.

The additional charge shall not exceed, for each employee of the CAA or each person appointed to act on behalf of the CAA, a maximum of £73,082 per function in respect of which a charge is specified in this Scheme, during which each such Member or employee or any other person appointed to act on behalf of the CAA is absent from the country in which he is normally stationed. The charge is payable on demand.

For the purpose of this section the United Kingdom, the Isle of Man and the Channel Islands shall be treated as one country.

NOTE 31: The additional charge shall include overseas travel time for which the appropriate rates can be found on the [CAA UK Official Record Series 5 web page](#).

3.10 CAA invoice payment terms

All CAA invoices raised under this Scheme are payable on demand.

3.11 Recovery of third-party costs

Where the CAA is required to engage third-party services to fulfil its regulatory obligations due to limitations in internal capacity or capability, the associated costs may be charged to the applicant, subject to prior agreement. These charges will be in addition to any standard fees listed in this Scheme of Charges.

4 Definitions

- 4.1 For the purposes of this Scheme CAA' means the Civil Aviation Authority.
- 4.2 All other expressions used in this Scheme shall, unless the context otherwise requires, have the same respective meanings as in the assimilated UK (EU) Regulation 2018/1139 (the UK Basic Regulation) and the implementing regulations made under it. Where terms defined are amended, they shall have the meaning as so amended.

(This note is not part of the Scheme.)

The CAA Refund and Waivers Policy may be found at www.caa.co.uk/ors5

The latest version of this document is available in electronic format at www.caa.co.uk/ors5, where you may also register for e-mail notification of amendments. Details for purchasing a paper copy can be found at the same web address.