DRONE OPERATIONS

Frequently we are asked if people can fly their drones on Port property or near Sanderson Field. The port requires drone operators to comply with all federal, state and county laws while on port property. Listed below is some standard guidance and requirements both federally and through the State of Washington. There are differences for commercial drone operation and hobbyist drone operation. Please note these differences and contact the Port office to supply the required registration numbers when flying on Port of Shelton properties.

**Federal Drone Laws in Washington**

These are drone laws that apply to every state in the U.S., including Washington, and were created by the federal government.

**To fly a drone as a commercial pilot in the State of Washington** (i.e. for work / business purposes) you are required to follow the requirements of the FAA’s Part 107 Small UAS Rule (Part 107), which includes passing the FAA’s Aeronautical Knowledge Test to obtain a Remote Pilot Certificate. You are also required by law to register with Washington State’s Aviation Division.

[FAA’s Part 107 Small UAS Rule (Part 107)](https://www.faa.gov/uas/commercial_operators)

[Register with Washington State’s Aviation Division](https://wsdot.wa.gov/travel/aviation/pilots-aircraft/register-commercial-drone)

**To fly a drone as a hobbyist in the state of Washington**(i.e. for fun / pleasure) you are required by the FAA to take the Recreational UAS Safety Test (TRUST). You are also required to follow the FAA’s recreational model aircraft rules. There are additional rules when it comes to airspace and altitude, keeping your drone within line-of-sight while you’re flying, and more.

[The Recreational UAS Safety Test (TRUST)](https://uavcoach.com/faa-recreational-drone-training/)

[Rules for recreational model aircraft](https://www.faa.gov/uas/recreational_fliers/)

**State Drone Laws in Washington**

These are drone laws that apply to the entire state of Washington, and were created by the Washington State Legislature.

Register your Commercial Drone

Starting April 1, 2022, commercially operated drones in Washington state are required by law to register with the Aviation Division. Registration is necessary for drone owners who operate their systems under 14 CFR Part 107 rules for compensation or hire, or engage in advertising.

[Register your Commercial Drone](https://wsdot.wa.gov/travel/aviation/pilots-aircraft/register-commercial-drone)

All drone pilots operating commercially in the state of Washington are subject to the FAA’s Part 107 rules. Learn more about the FAA’s certification process to obtain a commercial drone license [in this free guide](https://uavcoach.com/drone-certification/).

**Easy-to-follow outlined steps for Drone Operation:**

1. **Registration**: If you're flying a drone that weighs more than 0.55 pounds (250 grams) for recreational purposes, you need to register it with the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and affix the registration number to the drone. If your drone is under 0.55 Pounds, you don't need a license but you must follow rule #2 below.
2. **Fly for Fun (Recreational Use)**:
   * + Fly the drone at or below 400 feet above ground level.
     + Keep the drone within your line of sight at all times.
     + Don't fly near airports or in restricted airspace.
     + Don't fly over groups of people, stadiums, or emergency response efforts.
     + Avoid flying near wildlife.
3. **Fly for Work or Business (Commercial Use)**:
   * + Commercial drone operators need to obtain a Part 107 Remote Pilot Certificate from the FAA.
     + You must follow the regulations outlined in Part 107, which include restrictions on flying over people, flying at night, and more.
4. **No-Drone Zones**: There are areas where flying drones is prohibited or restricted for safety and security reasons, such as around airports, military bases, and certain government facilities.
5. **Washington State-Specific Regulations**: In addition to federal regulations, Washington State may have its own rules related to drone use. These can cover areas like privacy, trespassing, and state-owned property.
6. **Privacy and Trespassing**: While not exclusive to Washington State, it's important to respect people's privacy and property rights when flying a drone. Avoid flying over private property without permission and respect people's right to privacy.
7. **Permits and Local Regulations**: Some cities or counties within Washington State might have their own regulations or require permits for drone flights. It's advisable to check with local authorities before flying in specific areas.

Regulations can change at any time so make sure you check often for any changes