

Air Navigation (Overseas Territories) Order 2013

A brief overview of how it affects St Helena

This UK legislation applies to St Helena and introduces a number of restrictions on the use of St Helenian airspace. Its primary concern is that of safety, ensuring that aircraft landing and departing at St Helena are not put at risk by man-made flying objects or ground-based hazards.

Man-made flying objects can be either “controlled” or “uncontrolled”. Examples of a “controlled” flying object would be a radio controlled plane, or a kite; an “uncontrolled” flying object could be a balloon. A ground-based hazard might include a powerful light or a persistent reflection that causes glare.

The Order places restrictions on when flying objects and ground-based lights can be used. Restrictions can vary depending upon whether the airport is open and whether flights are due to take place. An “open day” is when the airport is open but flights may not necessarily occur; a “flying day” is when the airport is open and scheduled flights are expected. However, there will be the possibility of charter and medevac flights arriving on St Helena; therefore restrictions will apply on those days too.

This brief guide has been produced to help describe the rules (known as “Articles”) and to offer further advice.

Airspace in St Helena

The lower airspace over St Helena is made up of an Aerodrome Traffic Zone (ATZ) and a Control Zone (CTR). The Order restricts and prohibits activities within both Zones depending on whether aircraft are flying through them.



There are fewer restrictions on activities that take place on the west of the island i.e. to the west of Jamestown, because aircraft are unlikely to be flying in this area. Nevertheless, some restrictions remain in place to ensure air safety is maintained.

If you intend to fly something, or if you wish to use anything that might cause glare on days when flights could take place, please contact the Airport to find out how restrictions apply on that day.

Article 70 – Balloons

This Article is generally concerned with large balloons such as hot-air balloons and tethered ‘barrage’ balloons used for advertising. However, it does place restrictions on “small balloons” e.g. those that you’d buy for a party or a celebration.

It says that it is not permissible to release 1000 small balloons from a single location (i.e. within 1 square kilometre) over a period of less than 15 minutes.

Article 71 – Kites

On days when the Airport is **open**, a kite must not be flown more than 30 metres above ground level in the Aerodrome Traffic Zone (ATZ). Outside of the ATZ i.e. to the west of Diana's Peak, a kite must not be flown more than 60 metres above ground level.

On days when the Airport is **closed**, kites must not be flown more than 60 metres above ground at any location on the island.

Article 73 – Small Unmanned Aircraft (SUA)



SUAs (also known as quadcopters, UAVs, radio controlled aircraft or drones) are subject to restrictions depending upon when and where they are flown, and how much they weigh.

Anything weighing less than 7 kilogrammes is generally considered not to pose a significant risk to aircraft. As such there are no restrictions on when and where they can be flown, but nevertheless they must be flown responsibly.

Anything weighing more than 7 kilogrammes can pose a risk to aircraft safety; therefore there are a number of restrictions on when, where and how an SUA can be flown. **Prior permission to fly an SUA weighing more than 7 kg should be obtained from the Airport on days when it is open and when the SUA flight is within the ATZ or CTZ.** Flying an SUA outside of the ATZ or CTZ does not require prior permission from the Airport, but must not be flown higher than 400 feet above the surface.

Any SUA that has a "surveillance" element i.e. any SUA fitted with a camera or measuring device used for **commercial purposes** must have permission from Air Safety Support International (ASSI) to fly in St Helena. ASSI are the UK-based Regulator of St Helenian aviation activity.

Regardless of the weight and purpose of flight, owners and users of SUAs **must** use them responsibly and safely, and if they are fitted with a camera, owners and users must give thought to the privacy of people and their property.

Further information on SUAs can be found below and also on the ASSI website.

Other Safety-related Articles

Article 163 – Aeronautical Lights

The Order prohibits the negligent or intentional interference with an aeronautical ground light. Although this mainly applies to the lights on and around the runway, it also applies to lights outside the Airport such as the twelve Remote Obstacle Lights dotted around the island.

Article 165 – Dangerous Lights

Ground-based high-powered lights and lasers can pose a risk to the safety of aircraft landing or departing at St Helena.

When aircraft approach and take-off from St Helena, pilots require high levels of concentration and need to have a good view of the Airport and surrounding environs. High-powered lights and lasers have the ability to dazzle and disorientate pilots at a time when they are most busy.

Therefore the Order prohibits the use of anything that can cause glare, or could distract or dazzle pilots.

For further information on the Air Navigation (Overseas Territories) Order, please contact the St Helena Government Air Access Office (+290 22494) or go to our website (www.sainthelenaaccess.com). Air Safety Support International in the UK can be contacted on (+44 1293 897000) or via their website (www.airsafety.aero)

Flying an SUA in St Helena



Small Unmanned Aircraft (also sometimes known as Drones, Quadcopters or UAVs) are becoming more popular these days as technology improves and the cost of ownership reduces. They come in various designs, sizes and weights.

If you are an owner of a Small Unmanned Aircraft (SUA), you are responsible for its safe and legal use. Owning and using an SUA can be enjoyable, but it must be used safely and responsibly, particularly when the airport is operational and especially if your SUA weighs more than 7 kilogrammes.



The use of SUAs on St Helena is governed by the Air Navigation (Overseas Territories) Order 2013. It is your responsibility as an owner to understand what you can and can't do. The information below shows you what you need to do in order to comply with the Air Navigation (Overseas Territories) Order.

If you own or use an SUA and would like more information, please contact the Access Office. Further guidance has been produced by Air Safety Support International (ASSI) who regulate air safety in St Helena. Visit their website for more information: [www.airsafety.aero/Aircraft/Small-Unmanned-Aircraft-\(SUA\).aspx/](http://www.airsafety.aero/Aircraft/Small-Unmanned-Aircraft-(SUA).aspx/)



You are **legally responsible** for the safe conduct of each flight; this includes being responsible for avoiding collisions with people and objects – including aircraft.



Before each flight, check that your unmanned aircraft is not damaged, that all components are working, and that you have sufficient fuel.



If you have a camera fitted, think about the images you obtain as they could breach privacy.



You must keep your unmanned aircraft within your sight at **all** times. Never let it leave your sight.



You must **not** fly your unmanned aircraft over a congested area, within 50 metres of another person, vehicle or building, or within 150 metres of a crowd of 1000+ people without appropriate permission. Stay well clear of St Helena Airport.



If you intend to use your unmanned aircraft for any kind of commercial activity (including selling recorded images), you must get approval from ASSI prior to commencing activity.



REMEMBER: if your unmanned aircraft weighs more than 7kg and you intend to fly on a day when the airport is open, you **must** check with the airport before you do so. They can advise you on aircraft activity that may be taking place as well as where and when an unmanned aircraft is not permitted to fly.