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For immediate release

CAAM TO INTRODUCE NEW CIVIL AVIATION REGULATIONS ON UAS OPERATIONS AND ADVANCED UAS TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

New regulations place greater emphasis on recreational UAS operations, enhancing safety and airspace management across Malaysia.

PUTRAJAYA – Recognising the rapid advancements of Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) technology, the Civil Aviation Authority of Malaysia (CAAM) has been working closely with key stakeholders in developing a comprehensive and progressive regulatory framework. A new Civil Aviation Regulation (CAR) on Unmanned Aircraft Operations is set to be published in Q4 of 2025 with this new regulation representing a major step forward in addressing the evolving needs of the UAS industry.

Currently, UAS operation is regulated by CAAM under the Civil Aviation Regulations 2016 (CAR 2016), specifically, under Regulation 140 – Regulation 144. Consistent with the technological advancements in UAS, CAAM has been working closely with key stakeholders within the UAS industry to develop a new comprehensive regulatory framework that ensures both safety and innovation. The new CAR for Unmanned Aircraft Operations will provide enhanced guidance and governance, aligning with global best practices while fostering a safe, progressive and sustainable UAS ecosystem.

This new regulatory framework will more effectively align with the current growth and operational requirements of UAS technology, ensuring that Malaysia remains at the forefront of UAS integration and development. Alongside the development of the new regulatory framework, CAAM is also revising and streamlining the associated fees and charges to reflect the changes in the updated regulations to ensure it meets the growing demands of the industry.

In line with the updated regulations, CAAM is also introducing a state-of-the-art UAS Traffic Management System (UAS-TMS). This new system is designed to enhance the registration, application, and monitoring of UAS operations across the country and reduce the processing time for applicants. Expected to be fully operational by Q4 2025, the UAS-TMS will provide greater efficiency, safety, and oversight in UAS activities, benefiting both operators and the wider UAS industry.



Press Release

For the implementation of the UAS-TM, CAAM is working together with other regulatory authorities overseeing UAS regulations in Malaysia such as Royal Malaysia Police (RMP), Malaysian Communications and Multimedia Commission (MCMC), Standards and Industrial Research Institute of Malaysia (SIRIM), Malaysia Office of the Chief Government Security Officer (CGSO), Department of Survey and Mapping Malaysia (JUPEM), Sabah's Chief Minister Department and Office of the Premier of Sarawak to streamline the required registration and application processes within this new system. Ultimately, the introduction of the UAS-TMS aims to facilitate the expanding usage of UAS technology, supporting both commercial and recreational operations.

“CAAM acknowledges the urgent need for updated UAS regulations that align with the rapidly evolving industry landscape. At the same time, we remain steadfast in our commitment to safety, accountability, and the responsible use of UAS in Malaysia. Strengthening these regulations is crucial to maintaining the highest standards of safety in UAS operations while preventing unlawful activities such as illegal surveillance, airspace violations, and other criminal acts,” said YBhg. Dato' Captain Norazman Bin Mahmud, Chief Executive Officer of CAAM.

He also added, “CAAM is proud to have collaborated with industry experts to develop a regulatory framework that ensures innovation while maintaining safety and compliance. The introduction of the UAS Traffic Management System will further streamline operations and enhance the overall efficiency of UAS usage in Malaysia. I encourage the industry players and stakeholders to stay engaged with CAAM as we move towards implementing these critical updates.”

CAAM remains dedicated to supporting the growth of the UAS industry by providing a facilitative regulatory environment that balances innovation and safety. The forthcoming regulations will provide clearer guidelines for UAS operators, businesses, and enthusiasts, ultimately fostering a well-regulated and thriving UAS industry. This is to ensure that the evolving landscape of unmanned aviation is supported with progressive policies and cutting-edge solutions.



About Civil Aviation Authority of Malaysia

The Civil Aviation Authority of Malaysia (CAAM) is the regulatory body entrusted with overseeing and ensuring the safety, security, and efficiency of civil aviation in Malaysia. Guided by our commitment to international aviation standards and best practices, we work diligently to regulate and promote the growth of a sustainable aviation industry. CAAM provides robust oversight across air navigation services, aviation personnel licensing, and civil aviation operations while fostering innovation and maintaining a high level of compliance with the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) standards.

For media enquiries, kindly contact:

Anis Rahim at 012 336 4353 or via email at anis.rahim@caam.gov.my