

Operating unmanned Aircraft in Ny-Ålesund

Application details

Ny-Ålesund is a great place to operate unmanned aircraft due to the low density of other aircraft and population on ground. However, using unmanned aircraft is not without risk. To keep the risk levels acceptable it is important that the teams operating in the Ny-Ålesund area do this according to both Norwegian air law and local regulations. This document is an overview of the necessary agreements and regulations for flying unmanned aircraft in and near Ny-Ålesund.

Kings Bay and the local Traffic Information Zone (TIZ)

The operator must sign an agreement with local AFIS (Kings Bay in Ny-Ålesund/Longyear Tower) regarding use of airspace/runway and how to handle communication between AFIS and the operator during flying. It is the operator's responsibility to provide means of contact during flight operation.

All necessary permits, notifications to the authorities, valid RPAS operator license and the insurance have to be presented to Kings Bay AFIS before signing the contract.

Contact: airport@kingsbay.no

Norwegian civil aviation authorities – CAA

All unmanned aircraft operators planning to fly in Ny-Ålesund need to obtain a flight permit from the Norwegian civil aviation authorities. The only exception is the RPAS cat. RO1 operator who has to *notify* CAA before the operation starts and after it ends. The Norwegian regulations for unmanned aircraft can be found here:

http://luftfartstilsynet.no/selvbetjening/allmennfly/Droner/Use_of_RPASDrones_in_Norway

The operator must provide the appropriate forms to the CAA (depends on RPAS operative category):

- Declaration form RPAS-operator 1 (RO1) Form NF-1114
- RPAS Operators Application RO2 & RO3 Form NF-1113

http://www.luftfartstilsynet.no/selvbetjening/Skjema/Godkjenning_som_RPAS-operat%C3%B8r

For BVLOS (Beyond Visual Line of Sight) and BRLOS (Beyond Radio Line of Sight) the application for flight permit must NOT be submitted later than **3 months** before the start of planned flight operations.

For VLOS flight the latest possible time to submit the application is **4 weeks** before first planned flight.

Application(s) should be sent to postmottak@caa.no

Governor of Svalbard

Any planned activities with unmanned aircraft must be applied for to the Governor of Svalbard. This should be done while registering the research projects in the RIS-database.

Application to be sent to Firmapost@syssemmannen.no

Norwegian National Security Authority

A permit from the Norwegian National Security Authority is needed if any airborne sensor systems are used. The exception here are RPAS with photo/video sensors ONLY, operated within line of sight (VLOS), and outside/away from military installations and areas.

Other use of airborne sensors from manned or unmanned platforms is subject to approval - this also includes RPAS operations beyond line of sight (BLOS).

<http://lovdata.no/dokument/SF/forskrift/1997-01-06-3?q=forskrift+luftfoto>

Application to be sent to post@nsm.stat.no

Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs

The Chicago Convention Article 8 demands that:

“No aircraft capable of being flown without a pilot shall be flown without a pilot over the territory of a contracting State without special authorization by that State and in accordance with the terms of such authorization.”

Any foreign operators must therefore obtain an approval for operating over Norwegian territory. In addition, a traffic permission must be obtained for doing aerial work. Both these are given by the CAA as part of the operational approval. A fee is charged for the Traffic permission of NOK 2000,-

Operators affiliated with their government or that may be defined as State operators, also need a diplomatic clearance from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Insurance

All operators of unmanned aircraft in Norway shall hold a valid insurance covering damage on third parties. This require that each UAS operator provide proof of insurance in Special Drawing Rights (SDR), or equivalent, of 750,000, in accordance with the European Union established policy of EC785/2004, Article 7.1 Table.

Radio Frequencies

Ny-Ålesund is a radio silent area within 20 km radius from the centre of town. There are radio frequency restrictions in this zone (http://kingsbay.no/research/radio_silence/). Permission from Nkom is obligatory for use of any frequency in the range 2 – 32 GHz. The alternatives are 433 MHz or 868 MHz radio frequencies which, for the time being, might be used for the control of equipment on unmanned aircraft under certain conditions. No frequency can interfere with ongoing scientific measurements in Ny-Ålesund. Therefore, it is important to contact Kings Bay about the frequencies that are planned to be used before coming to Ny-Ålesund.

Contact: research@kingsbay.no

Updated 8 July 2016

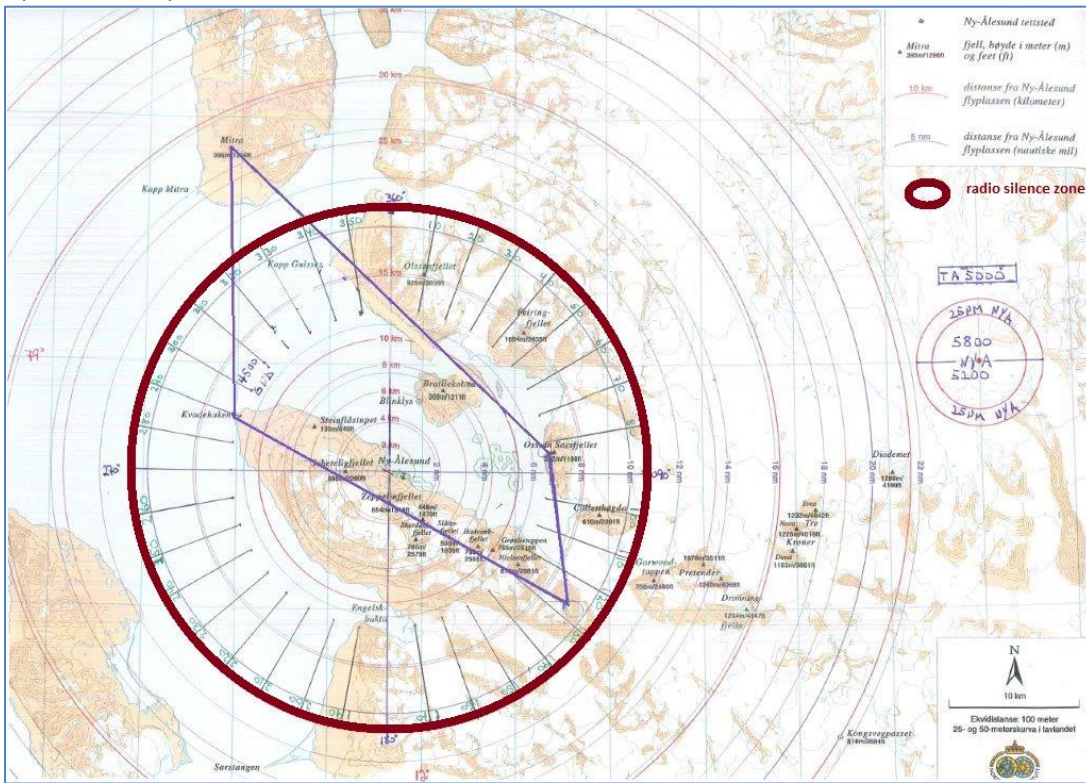


Fig.1 Ny-Ålesund local Traffic Information Zone (TIZ) and the radio silence zone (marked with red circle).