

Real-name registration requirement imposed for civilian-use drones in China

June 2017

Following serious incidents of civilian drones entering the airspace of Chinese airports and causing flight delays last April, China's civil aviation authority has issued the *Real-name Registration of Civil Unmanned Aircraft Administrative Provisions*, with effect from May 16, 2017, in an effort to increase accountability for drone use by requiring owners and manufacturers of civilian-use unmanned aircraft systems to complete "real-name" registration procedures.

Under the provisions, all civilian-use UAS with a maximum take-off weight of not less than 250g must be registered through the Civil Unmanned Aircraft Real-name Registration Information System, which became available from May 18, 2017.

The implementation of a real-name registration requirement is considered to be a major step towards more comprehensive regulation of drones in China.

However, various gaps exist in the real-name registration requirements, suggesting further rule-making may be needed.

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