

CAA Drones and Model Aircraft Registration and Education Scheme(DMARES)

Summary of Secretary's presentation given at 2019 AGM and decision taken.

On 30 November 2019 it became a legal requirement to register all drones and model aircraft, weighing more than 250 g, with the CAA and also it became a requirement to pass a test demonstrating an awareness of the rules for the safe operation of drones and model aircraft before being allowed to fly a registered model.

Anyone who operates, or is responsible for the operation of, a drone or model aircraft must obtain a Registration ID and display that ID on the aircraft. The Registration ID has to be renewed annually and the CAA charge the operator £9 pa for this.

The Flyer ID is free upon passing the safety awareness test and has to be renewed every three years.

The responsibility for complying with these requirements lies entirely with the operator or flyer. An operator must confirm a person has a Flyer ID before allowing that person to fly his model.

Failure to comply with these regulations can make the individual liable to prosecution.

The registration scheme went live on 5 November 2019, from which date any individual could register directly with the CAA, however, the BMFA recommendation is that their members should not rush to register because the BMFA have negotiated an extension of the deadline for members registration to 31 January 2020, to coincide with BMFA membership/insurance renewal, with the intention that members should have the opportunity to obtain registration through the BMFA.

The BMFA case for registering through them.

The BMFA needs the support of members to make this scheme work for them. A large number of members registering through the BMFA strengthens their position in negotiations with the CAA on our behalf. There is still much negotiating to do because of the introduction of the EASA regulations in June 2020.

Your registration status will be recorded in your Profile on the BMFA Members Portal.

An additional advantages of registering through the BMFA is that your only contact with the CAA will be through the BMFA and, if you pay online, only the BMFA will have your bank details, as at present.

Quote from latest BMFA update

"Some BMFA members have expressed concern that registering with the CAA via the BMFA means that they will not be issued with a CAA Flyer I.D. The simple reason for this is that our members don't need one! The CAA issue a Flyer I.D. solely to confirm that someone has taken their online test. Members with an existing achievement (including the new BMFA Registration Competency Certificate) are exempted from this requirement."

For members registering via the BMFA, the CAA will email them their Operator ID in early February which they should then display in an easily accessible location on or within their aircraft. **Members are exempted from the requirement to display an Operator number until 23rd February 2020.**"

It should be noted that the responsibility for obtaining the appropriate registrations is the responsibility of the individual and the club officers are not responsible for policing the scheme and are not liable for the actions of unregistered operators/flyers.

It is the case, however, that an insurance claim in the event of an accident, would not be met if the perpetrator is breaking the law. It seems to me, therefore, that the club has a duty of care to its members to ensure that all members have valid insurance in place in case an accident should occur which becomes the subject of an insurance claim. This would require that the club confirm a member's registration compliance before he can be allowed to fly at the club. In doing this the club will, in effect, police the scheme!

AGM Decision

It was unanimously agreed that the club would not act as an intermediary in the payment of BMFA membership/insurance fees, as in the past, or the new CAA Registration fee.

The payment of these fees and compliance with the new legislation will be entirely the responsibility of each individual member.

For the reasons given above it is recommended that members complete the necessary transactions through the BMFA Membership Portal website. This is a very simple and straightforward online procedure, but if any member would like assistance with it please contact the Secretary who will arrange help. It is understood that Registration is also be available via post through the BMFA.

Your registration status will be recorded in your Profile on the BMFA Members Portal.

Gerry Walkden, Secretary. December 2019.