

Drone Licence (under 25 kg) — Syllabus Guide

FAA · EASA · CAAC | Hong Kong Macau General Aviation — Flight Training | October 2026

For drones below 25 kg, each authority uses a certificate/competency model rather than an aviation licence: the **FAA** Remote Pilot Certificate (14 CFR Part 107, small UAS under 55 lb ≈ 25 kg), the **EASA** Open-category certificates of competency (Reg. (EU) 2019/947), and the **CAAC** drone pilot licence on the UOM platform under the 2024 Interim Regulations.

1. Overview — side-by-side

Item	FAA Part 107	EASA Open category	CAAC UOM (2024 rules)
Framework	14 CFR Part 107 — sUAS < 55 lb (24.95 kg)	Reg. (EU) 2019/947 + 2019/945 — Open category MTOM < 25 kg	■■■■■■■■■■■■■■■■■■■■ (1 Jan 2024) + UOM platform
Credential	Remote Pilot Certificate	A1/A3 proof of competency + optional A2 certificate	■■■■■■ (for ■■ and above); ■■/■■ exempt outside controlled airspace
Minimum age	16	16 (states may lower to 12)	16
Theory	Unmanned Aircraft General (UAG): 60 questions, 120 min, 70% pass	A1/A3: online training + 40-question online exam (75%); A2: 30-question invigilated exam (75%)	Official theory exam (■■■■/■■■■/■■ categories)
Practical	None (operations-based)	A2: self-practical training declaration	Practical flight skills exam
Validity	Never expires; free online recurrent course every 24 months	5 years (A1/A3 and A2)	6 years, renewed via flight-hour records/endorsements
Registration	Registration per 14 CFR 48	Operator registration ID required (≥ 250 g or camera-equipped)	■■■■■ real-name registration for ALL civil drones before flight



2. FAA — Remote Pilot Certificate (Part 107)

Element	Requirement
Eligibility (107.61)	≥ 16 years old; read/speak/write/understand English; physical and mental condition to fly safely; TSA security screening
Initial exam	Unmanned Aircraft General — Small UAS (UAG): 60 multiple-choice questions, 120 minutes, 70% pass mark
Recurrent	Free online recurrent training (FAASTeam) every 24 calendar months — the in-person recurrent exam was replaced in April 2021
Operating rules	VLOS (107.31); ≤ 400 ft AGL and ≤ 100 mph groundspeed (107.51); night ops allowed with anti-collision lighting visible 3 SM (107.29); flight over people per Category 1-4 standards; Remote ID per Part 89 mandatory since 2023
Certificate	Does not expire; currency via the 24-month online course

3. EASA — Open category (A1 / A2 / A3)

Element	Requirement
Scope	Drones < 25 kg MTOM; VLOS; max height 120 m (400 ft)
A1 (over people)	C0 (< 250 g) or C1 (< 900 g) class drones; no uninvolved-person overflight for C1; < 250 g private drones need no exam
A2 (close to people)	C2 class (< 4 kg); 30 m from uninvolved people (5 m in low-speed mode); requires A1/A3 completion + A2 certificate of competency (30-question invigilated exam, 75%, after self-practical training declaration)
A3 (far from people)	Any Open-category drone < 25 kg; ≥ 150 m from residential/commercial/industrial/recreational areas; no uninvolved persons within the flight area
Training	A1/A3: free EASA online training + online exam (40 questions, 75% pass, age ≥ 16)
Registration	Operator ID required for drones ≥ 250 g or with a camera/sensor (displayed on the drone); valid 5 years across the EU

4. CAAC — UOM drone licence (under 25 kg)

Element	Requirement
Classification	■■■ micro: empty weight < 0.25 kg · ■■■ light: empty weight ≤ 4 kg and MTOM ≤ 7 kg · ■■■ small: empty weight ≤ 15 kg and MTOM ≤ 25 kg (the class covering most sub-25 kg civil drones) · ■■■ medium: MTOM ≤ 150 kg · ■■■ large: > 150 kg
Who needs a licence	■■■■■■ required for ■■■ (small), ■■■ (medium) and ■■■ (large) drones; ■■■ (light) drones exempt in uncontrolled airspace (online UOM safety training for controlled airspace); ■■■ (micro) exempt
Licence categories	■■■■■■ VLOS pilot · ■■■■■■ BVLOS pilot · ■■■ instructor
Exams	Official theoretical knowledge + practical flight skills examinations; min age 16
Registration	■■■■■ real-name registration on uom.caac.gov.cn for ALL civil drones before flight
Validity	6 years; renewed via flight-hour records or endorsements on UOM

Figures verified from the official sources (14 CFR Parts 107/89; Regulations (EU) 2019/947 and 2019/945 and EASA guidance; the PRC Interim Regulations on the Management of Unmanned Aircraft Flight effective 1 Jan 2024 and the CAAC UOM platform) as of October 2026. Applicants should confirm current requirements with the relevant authority before enrolment. Enquiries: info@general-aviation.asia