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## Preflight Checklist

### **Airspace Assessment**

- If flight will be nearer than 5.6 km (3 NM) away from airports, or 1.9 km (1 NM) away from heliports, call airport operator in advance to understand established RPAS procedures at that aerodrome and to secure permission. Check app for safe flying zones. Check NRC Drone Site Selection web page. Check NAV CANADA's Canada Flight Supplements and Water Aerodrome Supplements.
  
- If flight will be in Controlled Airspace or Restricted Airspace, confirm that drone is accepted for Controlled Airspace operation. Secure permission from airspace authority and understand procedures. Flights in Controlled Airspace will require an approved NAV CANADA RPAS Flight Authorization Request. Check app for safe flying zones. Check NRC Drone Site Selection web page. Check Designated Airspace Handbook.
  
- If flight will be nearer than 5.6 km (3 NM) from a military aerodrome, ensure an SFOC has been approved.
- Secure permission from airspace authority and understand procedures. Check app for safe flying zones.
- Check NRC Drone Site Selection web page.
- Check Designated Airspace Handbook.
- Locate other aerodromes in flight area and ensure flight stays out of established flight patterns of those aerodromes. Check app for safe flying zones.
- Check NAV CANADA's Canada Flight Supplements and Water Aerodrome Supplements.
- Ensure no impacting temporary aviation restrictions are in effect. Check the NAV CANADA NOTAM site.
- Check visually and audibly for nearby low altitude air operations such as helicopters, seaplanes, hot air balloons, and ultra-light aircraft.

### **Ground Hazard Assessment**

- Take note of potential obstacles such as buildings, wires, trees, cell towers, wind turbines. Check maps for marked obstacles.
- Check for and plan to stay clear of land-based airspace restrictions, including police activities (eg traffic accidents), forest fires, or other natural disasters.

### **Weather & Environmental Factors**

- Check suitability of current weather and weather forecast for the duration of the operation (wind, rain, snow, fog, temperature).
- Check for and avoid potential dust or dirt clouds.
- Determine the maximum safe range for the operation, based upon site details, current weather conditions, and battery charge.

**Bystander Locations**

- If operation will include flying between 5m and 30m (horizontally) away from bystanders, ensure that drone is approved for Flying Near People.
- If operation will include flying closer than 5m horizontally from bystanders, ensure that drone is approved for Flying Over People.
- Ensure crew and other involved parties are aware of the flight and stand clear.

**Aircraft Check**

- Check that drone is registered, and registration number is on drone.
- If operation involves flying in controlled airspace, near or over people, confirm drone model is approved on Transport Canada list for such operations.
- Check for damage, cracks, or other signs of potential failure.
- Check propellers for cracks, deformation, or other wear.
- Ensure drone and control unit batteries are sufficiently charged for the operation.
- Check that propellers, propeller guards, and other removable items are secure, and items such as gimbal guards and lens covers are removed.
- Ensure micro-SD card is installed for camera recording.
- Ensure launch site is suitable for take-off (level, clear of debris, nothing to interfere with camera gimbal, pad in place if required for mud or snow).

**Crew Readiness**

- Confirm that pilot has appropriate certification for the type of operations being conducted.
- Confirm that all flight crew members are fit to perform: No alcohol consumption within prior 12 hours. No cannabis use for at least 28 days prior. Not under the influence of any drug that may impair safety. Not suffering from fatigue.
- Ensure all flight crew members (eg, Visual Observer) understand their roles, means of communicating with the pilot, emergency procedures, and the location/use of any emergency equipment.
- Ensure any other people involved in the operation understand to stay clear during take off and landing, and not to interfere with the pilot and crew during the operation.
- Confirm crew is aware of take-off plan, landing plan and back-up landing plan.
- Ensure any special attributes of the flight are properly addressed (eg, FPV goggles, night flying)
- Ensure flight log is available to record flight.