



This document contains safety rules and forms part of the Model Aeronautics Association of Canada (MAAC) Safety Code for all activities described herein. Ensure that you have the latest version; always check the MAAC Web Site.

**1.0 Title: MSD 25 – RPAS Competency Demonstration Requirements.**

**2.0 Purpose:** This document provides the National minimum competency requirements and process to comply with the requirements of Transport Canada Exemption NCR-011-2019.

**3.0 Application:** This process applies to a new, or past member returning after a full year absence who want to operate an RPAS. These people, must satisfactorily demonstrate knowledge and competence to a delegated, MAAC/Club Examiner, in order to be deemed a MAAC “Qualified Pilot”. This process shall also be utilised with temporary foreign members.

**4.0 Definitions [Glossary of Terms:](#)**

**Student Pilot:**

- i. Is a member in good standing who has not yet demonstrated his competency to an Examiner or;
- ii. Is a previous member in good standing who has not renewed his MAAC membership for a full calendar year.

**Qualified Pilot:** Is a member in good standing who has successfully demonstrated competence of the knowledge and skills criteria outlined in this document and has maintained his membership of MAAC since the demonstration.

**Qualified Instructor:** Is a member in good standing known to have sufficient knowledge and experience to provide student instruction and has been designated by a sanctioned Club or Zone Director as a “Qualified Instructor”.

**Qualified Examiner:** Is a member in good standing known to have sufficient knowledge and experience to provide an assessment of student competence and has been designated by a sanctioned Club or Zone Director as a “Qualified Examiner”.

**RPAS** – are **all** remotely piloted aircraft from zero to 35 kgs that is operated by a MAAC member under the MAAC Safety Code and applicable guidelines. This excludes control line, free-flight, and rocket models for the purpose of this process.

**Remote RPAS Competency Attestation** – is a process used for members in remote locations or unable to complete the process in person.

**5.0 Discussion / Background.**

- 5.1 Per the Exemption, a member of MAAC shall not operate an RPAS until and unless that member has successfully demonstrated to a person delegated by MAAC in accordance with MAAC's rules, procedures, and safety guidelines that the member has sufficient knowledge and experience to control the RPAS in a safe and competent manner unless the member is under the direct supervision of a qualified MAAC instructor.
- 5.2 Clubs are free to continue to utilize optional MAAC training programs such as WINGS or other pilot proficiency and skill development programs. However Clubs and Zones must use the RPAS Competency demonstration process as outlined in this document.
- 5.3 Members who, because of reasonable and legitimate geographic location limitations cannot attend a Club or have access to a designated Examiner to complete this process in person, may request a MAAC Geographically Restricted RPAS Competency attestation.

**6.0 Responsibilities while conducting assessment:**

- 6.1 The Qualified Examiner shall confirm the Student Pilot has a valid MAAC membership.
- 6.2 The Student Pilot does not need to be a member of any MAAC Club and does not need to demonstrate knowledge of Club rules for the Club where any demonstration takes place, except those Club rules which are deemed safety related, and required for the safe execution of the demonstration flight.
- 6.3 Clubs are not obligated to provide competency assessments to non club members or allow non club examiners use of club facilities. Where difficulties arise refer to the Zone Director.
- 6.4 A Student Pilot may request an RPAS competency assessment at any time, regardless of any training received or not received. Clubs shall not require a Student to undertake Club training as a prerequisite to attempting the first competency assessment.
- 6.5 It is the responsibility of the Qualified Examiner to refuse a request to start or continue a qualification demonstration if, in the Qualified Examiner judgement, the Student Pilot does not demonstrate at any time the necessary knowledge / experience /skill to safely operate the RPAS.
- 6.6 A Student Pilot may attempt the RPAS competency demonstration with any type of RPAS, at any location (indoor/outdoor/Sanctioned Club/personal flying site) and the Examiner need not be able to operate the RPAS themselves. Except where stipulated otherwise, a successful Student Pilot competency demonstration on one type of RPAS allows operation of any type of RPAS.

**6.7** A Student Pilot is expected to be able to complete the entire competency demonstration process start to finish unassisted. This does not prevent the Qualified Examiner from offering advice or assistance provided it is of a non-critical nature and done either before or after the demonstration process. The examiner may request the Student Pilot to demonstrate the required components in any sequence.

- iii. For the knowledge portion, a Student Pilot may use aids to obtain information as memorization is not required.
- iv. For the flying demonstration, the Student Pilot must be in direct control of the RPAS at all times. Use of on board flight stabilization systems while not encouraged are permitted. Any type of pre-programmed flight guidance or navigation system is prohibited. The use of visual aids such as FPV is also prohibited. The use of any “buddy-box” type system with a safety pilot is permitted to ensure safety, however any safety pilot input shall result in a failed attempt.

**6.8** If the Student Pilot fails to demonstrate the necessary knowledge or skills to complete any of the required elements, the assessment shall be terminated, and the student shall be advised of reason for termination, as well as the steps necessary prior to a re-examination.

**6.9** Upon successful completion, the designated Qualified Examiner or Club President shall update the National Competency registry online. The Student Pilot Competency Qualification form (Appendix A) once completed must also be sent to National office either electronically or in hard copy. Clubs are not required to retain completed forms once submitted.

**6.10** In addition to the above, Qualified Examiners completing a MAAC Remote RPAS Competency Attestation shall do the following:

- i. Complete the knowledge portion via phone or other voice communication;
- ii. Complete the flight demonstration portion via video, in any agreed upon format; and
- iii. Complete the National database update and Appendix A form per normal and indicate a Remote RPAS Competency Attestation.

## **7.0 Administrative and other Process**

**7.1** All 2018 MAAC member's pilots status have been grandfathered to “Qualified Pilot” by an automated database routine. The Club President or Qualified Examiner(s) have the ability to change their member’s classification as required.

**7.2** A Club has the responsibility to downgrade a club member from “Qualified Pilot” to “Student”, as circumstances dictate. This provision is primarily intended for situations where competency has demonstrably declined, and safety may no longer be assured.

- 7.3** A Zone Director has the discretion to downgrade a MAAC member from “Qualified Pilot” to “Student”, as circumstances dictate. This provision is primarily intended for situations where a member is not part of a Club and the Zone Director has been made aware their skills have demonstrably declined to the point where safety may no longer be assured.
- 7.4** A Club or Zone Director has the discretion to upgrade or downgrade a club member or Zone member between “Qualified Pilot” and “Qualified Examiner” designation, as circumstances dictate.
- 8.0** **Additional Clarification Notes** Clubs and Zones shall recognize this process as the Nationally approved standard and have no authority to create or impose additional requirements or restrictions on the RPAS Competency demonstration process. However, outside this process Individual Clubs may:
- a. Require visiting MAAC members, members who obtained their “RPAS Competency” demonstration at another Club, or via the Remote RPAS Competency Attestation, to demonstrate knowledge of Club specific safety rules and perform one competency demonstration “check” flight in accordance with this document's process. For clarity, no additional administrative action is required if the demonstration “check flight” is successful. If any part is unsuccessful follow the process as outlined in this document;
  - b. Utilize the MAAC WINGS program, or any other pilot proficiency/training program in addition to the Competency requirements, as condition of Club membership as the Club deems fit;
  - c. Create other Club membership requirements as they deem fit and amend from time to time, as has been historically done.

Clubs and Zones must act in good faith regarding non-club members, and must not collude or otherwise act together to create rules or pilot requirements in a Zone, or in a group of Clubs that might reasonably disadvantage non-club members

## **8.2 MAAC International RPAS Pilots**

Any international visitor (i.e. AMA member) who did not retain MAAC membership per the Grandfathering clause (MAAC member since 2018) and wanting to fly without “*direct supervision*”, shall be required to:

- i. Become a MAAC member.

As of April 2021, the Transport Canada Exemption granted to MAAC does not recognize the prior reciprocal agreement with AMA members to operate an RPAS in Canada. AMA members wishing to fly in Canada, must be a MAAC member and comply with MAAC rules.

There are no other international agreements and those persons intending to operate an RPAS in Canada under MAAC, must be MAAC members and follow MAAC rules and demonstrate competency using this process

- ii. Demonstrate RPAS competency in accordance with this process.

For clarity, an examiner may use the Remote RPAS Competency Attestation process to qualify any international RPAS pilot or AMA members not grandfathered.

## **9.0 Current version**

Version 1, approved July 27, 2020

Version 2, approved April 19, 2021

Version 2.1, approved July 26, 2021

**NOTE:** Hard copies of this document may become outdated through revision, cancellation or replacement with another document. To ensure that you have the latest version approved by the Board of Directors, always check the MAAC web site under Resources – Documents – MAAC Safety Code.

## Student Pilot Competency Qualification

**Student Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ MAAC # \_\_\_\_\_

**Examiner's Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ MAAC # \_\_\_\_\_

Location of demonstration:

\_\_\_\_\_

- Remote RPAS Competency Attestation (if applicable).

### **A. Knowledge Confirmation:**

The Qualified Examiner is required to confirm the student understands the following information. Qualified Examiners should endeavour to provide clarification where required:

- Read and understand the MAAC Safety Code documents (mandatory MSD01, MSD02, MSD03, MSD06).
- Read and understood the MAAC Part IX Exemption.
- Airspace designation and Controlled Airspace Authorization (reference MAP01 and associated tutorials).
- Requirement to seek and follow all Club Safety Rules / Procedures / site limitations when flying at different locations.
- Student's responsibilities when they are not operating at a Club/sanctioned site/event (Airspace, Aerodromes proximity, landowner permissions).
- Student accepted responsibility to seek and acquire any necessary additional knowledge, skills or proficiency required to safely operate RPAS of different sizes, weights, types or category.

### **B. Competency Demonstration Flight:**

Prepared the RPAS and any related equipment for flight:

- Owner I.D. contained on, or in, aircraft.
- Pre-Flight assembly completed. (i.e.: wings, rotors, hatches etc. properly secured)
- Control surfaces and inputs properly synced/oriented as appropriate.
- Successful radio range check completed as appropriate.

- Demonstrated pre-flight notifications and/or special procedures if required.
- All flying manoeuvres must demonstrate controlled flight respecting flightline and within the boundaries of the site’s designated flying area, and applicable altitude restrictions.

The student shall be provided sufficient time to complete the required manoeuvres which are:

- Demonstrated controlled launch/takeoff
- one 360 degree left turn and one 360 degree right turn completed in forward flight (not hovering)
- Completed controlled landing and recovery of RPAS according to site procedures.
- Demonstrated appropriate shutdown procedures.
- Completed required post-flight procedures/notifications if required.

**C. Results:**

- Student was unable to demonstrate competency and cannot be qualified for the following reasons:

\_\_\_\_\_

- Student demonstrated RPAS knowledge and operation competency.

\_\_\_\_\_ MAAC # \_\_\_\_\_, has successfully demonstrated RPAS knowledge and competency per the MAAC Exemption to PART IX of the CAR.

Student Signature:

E-Signed \_\_\_\_\_ MAAC# \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Qualified Examiner Signature:

E-Signed \_\_\_\_\_ MAAC# \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_