



SAFETY DECISION 2026-03

Issue 03

Date of Issue: 27 April 2026

SUBJECT:

TEMPORARY SUSPENSION OF UNMANNED AIRCRAFT SYSTEMS (DRONES), LIGHT SPORT AIRCRAFT AND BALLOON OPERATIONS WITHIN UAE AIRSPACE

APPLICABILITY:

This Safety Decision applies to:

- (a) Operators of unmanned aircraft systems (UAS)/drones (commercial and recreational);
- (b) Operators of Light Sport Aircraft (LSA) of all types; and
- (c) Balloon operations.

BACKGROUND:

- In light of the prevailing circumstances affecting national airspace safety and security, precautionary measures are required to mitigate potential risks.
- In the interest of ensuring public safety and the protection of national airspace, the GCAA has determined that a temporary suspension of operation of the above-mentioned aircraft categories is necessary.

This Issue 3 is published to remove the operations authorised under Part SPO from the scope of the temporary suspension.

REQUIREMENTS:

- (a) All authorisations/approvals issued for Unmanned Aircraft Systems (drones), Light Sport Aircraft and Balloons, are hereby **suspended effective immediately**.
- (b) During the suspension period:
 - (1) The operation, launch, or flight of the aforementioned aircraft within UAE airspace is strictly prohibited.
 - (2) No new authorisations/approvals shall be issued for the above categories during the suspension period.
- (c) Full compliance with this Safety Decision is mandatory. Any violation shall be subject to applicable legal measures in accordance with UAE Civil Aviation Law and relevant regulation.
- (d) Notwithstanding the above, any operation falling under the scope of this Safety Decision may only be conducted if specifically exempted by the GCAA through a written authorisation issued for that purpose.

NOTE: This Safety Decision is issued as a temporary precautionary measure in response to prevailing circumstances and may be amended, extended or cancelled based on further assessment.

CONTACT:

For any inquiry, please contact P&R@gcaa.gov.ae