**STEP ONE: FAA PART 107 DRONE CERTIFICATION**

**NOTE:** The first two things a newsroom needs in order to fly drones are a FAA part 107 certified Pilot in Command and an Operations Manual.

**My Favorite tools for getting FAA Part 107 Certification**

I would start with the first two on the list. They are my study bibles!

**1) ASA Remote Pilot Test Prep -** [**https://www.asa2fly.com/Test-Prep-2019-Remote-Pilot-P3924C738.aspx**](https://www.asa2fly.com/Test-Prep-2019-Remote-Pilot-P3924C738.aspx)

This book was my study bible. It has actual test questions with answers and explanations. Best of all, when you think you are ready, there are 5 free online sample tests you can take. I highly recommend this book and the other study guides at the ASA website.

**2) FAA Part 107 sUAS & Drone Certification Study Guide by Chelsea & Tony**

<https://northrup.photo/free-faa-part-107-suas-drone-certification-study-guide/>

\*\* This is a great start! In addition to the video, they have a simple cheat sheet you can use like flashcards with just the facts before the test. They also have links to a lot of the information below.

**3) Rupprecht Law practice test**

<https://jrupprechtlaw.com/part-107-test-questions-remote-pilot-knowledge-test>

**4) Learn to apply for Wavers around controlled airspace.**

<https://www.dronepilotgroundschool.com/faa-airspace-authorization/>

**5) Join the NPPA** (National Press Photographers Association) <https://nppa.org>. The NPPA general council Mickey Osterreicher is on the leading edge concerning journalists and drone laws. As a member, Mickey can be a great resource of information and legal watchdog.

**—Helpful Links**

FAA UAS Getting Started

<https://www.faa.gov/uas/getting_started/fly_for_work_business/becoming_a_pilot/>

FAA Airspace Authorization & Wavers

<https://www.faa.gov/uas/commercial_operators/part_107_waivers/>

The FAA is rolling out grid maps around airports with maximum height information to help make applying for Wavers easier.

<https://faa.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=9c2e4406710048e19806ebf6a06754ad>

FAA Airman Certificate Application (IACRA)

<https://iacra.faa.gov/IACRA/Default.aspx>

LAANC Participating Airspace

<https://www.faa.gov/uas/programs_partnerships/data_exchange/laanc_facilities/>

FAA Part 107 Unmanned Aircraft Systems Safety Course

<https://www.faasafety.gov/gslac/ALC/CourseLanding.aspx?cID=451>

UAV Weather Forecast

<https://www.uavforecast.com/#/>

**—Developing an Operations Manual**

The Niagara Gazette used the resources below to create our own guide. When we merged with Raycom, they already had a very detailed guide. Both are very good sources for developing your own.

Example 1: Drone Journalism Lab Operations Manual

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/32pi2e2gv6huyzg/AAAwGq7b1mO5ekikCn-7JFiMa?dl=0>

Example 2

<https://info.ornl.gov/sites/publications/Files/Pub73072.pdf>

**—YouTube Vides**

AA UAS / UAV Commercial Operations 107

<https://youtu.be/XK2gA88pO0E>

**—Website Tools**

[1800wxbrief.com](http://1800wxbrief.com)

<https://www.1800wxbrief.com/Website/#!/>

Aviation Weather Center - I saved this to the desktop of my phone.

<http://aviationweather.gov/metar>

Drone Laws by Country

<https://uavcoach.com/drone-laws/>

Drone Laws by State

<http://www.ncsl.org/research/transportation/current-unmanned-aircraft-state-law-landscape.aspx>

PilotWeb

<https://pilotweb.nas.faa.gov/PilotWeb/>

SkyVector Aeronautical Charts

<https://skyvector.com>

**—Apps**

In addition to keeping a log book, I use Airmaps on location to make sure the airspace is legal, to check the weather and request wavers. Skyward is also a great tool for preplanning and logging a flights.

Airmap

<https://www.airmap.com>

Skyward

<https://skyward.io>

B4UFLY Smartphone App

<https://www.faa.gov/uas/where_to_fly/b4ufly/>

Kittyhawk

<https://kittyhawk.io/?gclid=CJ7rrf-R_9QCFVeBswoddaEGiw>

**—Equipment**

* FAA Part 107 Certification Card - You don’t need this to practice flying, something a pilot should do at least 30 min. each month.
* DJI Phantom 4 Pro + - I bought the Pro Plus because it came with its own screen eliminating the need for a phone or tablet. I love my Phantom, but others prefer to go with the DJI Mavic 2 or Mavic 2 zoom. I would love to have the zoom, eliminating the need to fly closer to the subject of interest.
* Three Batteries
* Car Charger
* Anemometer to measure ground wind speed
* Backpack case
* Operations Manual
* Log Book/Safety Checklist - Before flying, I always check the Airmaps app when in the field, then go down the list of checks.
* List of local emergency responder contact numbers. IE: The FAA scrutinizes safety mitigation when asking for wavers.
* Bright Vest that says FAA Certified Pilot
* Collapsible Landing Pad
* 4 Safety Cones to place around Landing Pad

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