



This document contains the official Model Aeronautics Association of Canada (MAAC) Policy for a given safety subject and provides direction to the membership on the required compliance with stated article(s) of the Safety Code. Ensure that you have the latest version; always check the MAAC [Web Site](#).

1.0 Title: MSD 3 - MAAC SAFETY CODE – All Model Categories

2.0 Purpose: This document establishes the core MAAC Safety Code requirements applicable to all MAAC recognized modelling categories – RPAS, Free Flight, Control Line, Space Modelling and Surface Models. Each category of modelling has specific safety code rules contained in separate safety code documents.

3.0 Definitions [Glossary of Terms](#).

The following are definitions related to this document:

Model Aircraft – means any non-RPAS flying model which includes Free-Flight (F/F), Control Line (C/L) and Space Modelling categories.

Personal Flying Site – A MAAC-sanctioned outdoor flying site, of any size intended for use by the individual MAAC member.

Remotely Piloted Aircraft - means a navigable aircraft, other than a balloon, rocket or kite, that is operated by a pilot who is not on board.

Remotely Piloted Aircraft System (RPAS) - means a set of configurable elements consisting of a remotely piloted aircraft, its control station, the command and control links and any other system elements required during flight operation. For all purposes the terms "RPAS" and "model aircraft" are **no** longer interchangeable (previously referred to as radio control or R/C aircraft). **For the purposes of this document, RPAS also includes mRPAS (sub 250 grams)**

Safety Spotter – means a person assigned the sole task of watching for and ensuring RPAS or model aircraft activities are safely separated from full-scale aviation activities.

Special Aviation Event - means an air show, a low level air race, an aerobatic competition, a fly-in or a balloon festival. (Section 901.41 of the CARs).

Surface models – means any type of model that is not intended for, or cannot sustain controlled flight, such as model cars or boats.

4.0 Discussion / Background.

- 4.1 To explain how all MAAC model category safety rules apply and how RPAS or model aircraft operations are required to adhere to the Transport Canada regulations and MAAC Safety Code requirements:
- a) MAAC members operating RPAS shall review and comply with the applicable terms and conditions of Part IX of the Canadian Aviation Regulations.
 - b) Part IX of the Canadian Aviation Regulations applies to all MAAC members operating RPAS weighing between 250 grams and 25 kilograms, at any outdoor location such as MAAC sanctioned flying sites or events and to MAAC members operating RPAS from Personal Flying Sites.
- 4.2 Control line, free-flight, space models (rockets), surface models or RPAS operated indoors do not fall under Part IX but **must** still follow all applicable MAAC Safety codes.
- 4.3 Because the safe operation of any modelling category can be influenced by many factors such as local field conditions, weather, size of gathering, mix of model categories etc. local club officials, event organizers or other assigned responsible persons may implement more restrictive requirements than those listed in this document as necessary to ensure public and full-scale Aviation safety.

5.0 Required Action.

- 5.1 All members shall review and comply with the MAAC Safety Code, the specific rules of any modelling category and any rules established for the specific model site and/or event.
- 5.2 All members shall review MAAC Safety Code documents from time to time for any amendments. Notification of all approved changes will be posted on the MAAC Web site in a prominent location and will include the effective date of the changes.
- 5.3 MAAC members operating RPAS **shall** review and comply with the applicable terms and conditions of Part IX of the Canadian Aviation Regulations.
- 5.4 No member shall operate any category of model in a careless, reckless, or otherwise dangerous manner that may pose a hazard to persons or property.
- 5.5 No member shall operate any category of model while under the influence of alcohol / cannabis or other judgment impairing drugs.
- 5.6 No member shall operate any category of model at any location where it is prohibited by law. The member shall obtain or ensure property owner permissions or other local land use/access and ordinance compliance as required.
- 5.7 No member shall operate any category of model at a location in Canada:
- a) Deemed unsafe by MAAC, or at a club or site de-sanctioned by MAAC, or

b) That is not in possession of a valid Site Operating Certificate.

Any sites de-sanctioned or deemed unsafe are published on the MAAC website

- 5.8** No member shall start, arm, “power-up” or make ready for operation any category of model unless they do so in accordance with the category specific safety rules, or where none exist in a manner that reasonably assures public and bystander safety.
- 5.9** All members must transport, store, charge, or otherwise handle all fuels, batteries and related equipment in accordance with the manufacturer’s recommendations, and where none exist in a manner that provides reasonable safeguards against fire or explosive risks.
- 5.10** No member shall operate any category model beyond unaided visual line of sight (VLOS) (except for corrective lenses and sunglasses). Members, or their spotter must always maintain visual contact with their model. Flight into, between or above clouds is prohibited.
- 5.11** No member shall operate any category of model in a fully autonomous mode – direct control must always be possible by the member.
- 5.12** No member shall operate any category of model at any type of special aviation event (full scale airshows or flying displays etc.) or outdoor public event such as concerts, festivals, regattas, markets or sporting events. Persons wishing to operate an RPAS at any such events must do so completely independently from any affiliation to MAAC (PART IX, SFOC etc.). Static displays of any category require a MAAC sanction.
- 5.13** No member shall operate any category of model at an **indoor** public event, such as concerts, festivals, markets or sporting events, unless a MAAC sanction has been issued. Static displays also require a MAAC sanction.
- 5.14** All members operating any category of model shall comply with any directions or instructions issued by an Air Traffic Control unit, whether civilian or military.
- 5.15** No member shall operate a RPAS or model aircraft at any location or altitude in a manner that is or is likely to be hazardous to full-scale aircraft. The member shall establish procedures to ensure that RPAS or model aircraft do not conflict with or pose a hazard to full scale aircraft in the vicinity. **The member shall retain ultimate responsibility, at all times and in all circumstances, for collision avoidance from full-scale aircraft.**
- 5.16** No member shall operate an RPAS or model aircraft at any location, unless they have conducted a site survey, or are aware of a completed site survey that ensures MAAC rule and Canadian Aviation Regulations compliance as required. This applies equally to Clubs and Sanctioned sites/Events as well as members operating from Personal Flying Sites.

5.17 No member shall operate an RPAS, Free Flight or Space Model in any type of restricted airspace without permission. This airspace includes any temporary Class F restricted special use airspace, zones where a NOTAM for forest fire aircraft operating restriction has been issued and zones where section 5.1 of the Aeronautics Act restricts the use of airspace to all aircraft.

5.18 No member shall operate a RPAS or model aircraft directly over:

- i. MAAC related vessels; vehicles; and structures,
- ii. no-fly zones as designated on the club field layout,
- iii. a MAAC member(s) or those involved in supervised MAAC activities (i.e. – retrieving models, contest marshals etc), or
- iv. any other areas where there are any MAAC people present.

5.19 No member shall operate a RPAS, or reasonably expect a Free Flight aircraft or Space model to operate within 30 meters laterally in any direction and regardless of altitude of:

- i. non-MAAC related vessels, vehicles, structures, or any other item of value, or
- ii. uninvolved bystanders.

5.20 No member shall operate an RPAS or model aircraft at a MAAC sanctioned site or event while non-MAAC CAR PART IX RPAS operations are occurring in the flying area.

5.21 No member shall create a hazard by carrying in or dropping from a RPAS or model aircraft any object that may endanger persons or property.

5.22 No member shall allow any projectile to be carried by or launched from a RPAS or model aircraft.

5.23 No member shall launch any projectile from the ground aimed at or in the direction of a flying RPAS or model aircraft and no member shall operate a RPAS or model aircraft with the intent of providing a target for projectiles launched at it.

5.24 No member shall operate a RPAS weighing more than 25 kilograms (55.11 pounds) including fuel and payload without proper authorization. Members are reminded that any RPAS weighing more than 25kg are subject to approval by Transport Canada, a Special Flight Operations Certificate (SFOC). Any RPAS weighing 35kg or more, including fuel and payload, is not covered under the MAAC General Liability insurance policy.

5.25 Failure to comply with the requirements stipulated in section 5.0 may result in a MAAC member being subject to disciplinary action up to and including suspension or termination of MAAC membership, and the resultant loss of RPAS operation privileges granted.

6.0 History of Revisions.

Version 5, updated to reflect CARS Part IX exemption, revision of section 2.0, revision

of section 4, revision to multiple subsections of section 5, reorganization renumbering of section 5, and added section 5.15

Version 5.1, revised updated section 5.6 to clarify member responsibility for aircraft avoidance - approved June 15, 2020

Version 6, Major rewrite of the document to create interim "Master Safety Code". Updated all language to include surface vehicles, Free flight, control line and general Space modelling rules. Renumbered and restructured all provisions. Revised section to clarify where members are prohibited from operating any category of model by law. Added sections to clarify MAAC member participation at non-sanctioned special aviation and other public events - approved October 18, 2021.

Version 6.1, revision to bring in compliance with CARS Part IX, February 15, 2023.

Version 6.2, revision to clarify insurance coverage, March 24, 2023.

Version 6.3, revision to clarify operation on delisted sites, April 10, 2023.

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. In the event of discrepancy between English and French versions, the English version will prevail.