

ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA



**THE CIVIL AVIATION (REMOTELY PILOTED AIRCRAFT SYSTEMS) (RPAS)
(CHOGM) REGULATIONS 2026**

STATUTORY INSTRUMENT

2026, No. 77

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ARRANGEMENT OF REGULATIONS

Regulations

PART I

PRELIMINARY

1. Short Title
2. Interpretation
3. Purpose
4. Commencement

PART II

REGISTRATION

5. CHOGM Registry
6. Application for Registration

PART III

OPERATIONS

7. Prohibition of RPAS Operations
8. RPAS Operation during CHOGM
9. Reporting requirements

PART IV

OFFENCES AND PENALTIES

10. Offences
11. Penalties
12. Powers to confiscate, detain & destroy RPAS, and or Operator.

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**THE CIVIL AVIATION REMOTELY PILOTED AIRCRAFT SYSTEMS
(CHOGM REGULATIONS) made pursuant to Section 49 (2) of the Civil Aviation
Act 2003 as amended.**

PART I

PRELIMINARY

1. Short Title

These Regulations may be cited as the Civil Aviation (Remote Piloted Aircraft Systems) (RPAS) (CHOGM) Regulations 2026.

2. Interpretation

In these Regulations—

“ABDF” means the Antigua and Barbuda Defence Force

“ATS” means the Antigua and Barbuda Air Traffic Services

“CHOGM” means Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (30th day of October to the 5th day of November 2026).

“ECCAA” means The Eastern Caribbean Civil Aviation Authority

“RPAS” means Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems

3. Purpose

The purpose of these regulations is to safeguard national security and to ensure that there is a safe system of registration and operation of Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems within Antigua and Barbuda during the period of CHOGM.

4. Commencement

These Regulations will come into force effective October 8th 2026, and will cease to have effect on the 15th day of November 2026.

PART II**REGISTRATION****5. CHOGM Registry**

All applicants needing to operate their Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems during the CHOGM shall apply to the Eastern Caribbean Civil Aviation Authority (ECCAA) from the 8th to the 20th of October 2026. The ECCAA shall keep a Register of approved applicants which will be known as the CHOGM Registry.

6. Application for registration

(1) An applicant who desires to register their Remotely Piloted Aircraft System must submit to the ECCAA the following—

- (a) Name of the legally registered Organisation;
- (b) Name of the Operator/ Pilot;
- (c) RPAS Type / Model and serial number;
- (d) Address of the Organisation and or Operator;
- (e) The applicant's valid passport as well as a government issued identification;
- (f) Flight Route and Operating Frequency;
- (g) Purpose of RPAS operation
- (h) Length of RPAS Operations;
- (i) Training Certificate if any;
- (j) Airworthiness Certificate where applicable;
- (k) Insurance Certificate;
- (l) Police Record; and
- (m) Current Operator's Authorisation or Certificate from a Civil Aviation Authority.

2. Upon receiving an application for Registration, the ECCAA will consult with the ABDF prior to the granting of the approval to the applicant by the ECCAA.

PART III

OPERATIONS

7. Prohibition of RPAS operation

(1) During the period of October 26th – November 8th, 2026, no Remotely Piloted aircraft system (RPAS) will be permitted to operate during the period within Antigua and Barbuda, unless they are registered with the ECCAA.

(2) THE ECCAA may extend the period in paragraph (1) by up to 7 days, if required.

8. RPAS operation during CHOGM

Upon receiving approval to operate from the ECCAA, the Applicant shall be required to communicate with the Antigua and Barbuda Air Traffic Services (ATS) unit at the V.C. Bird International Airport prior to the commencement of each flight or operation of the RPAS for the approval of that flight or operation during the CHOGM.

9. Reporting requirement

The approved RPAS operator whilst operating the RPAS must communicate with the ATS unit, any unusual occurrence arising during any RPAS operation or flight.

PART IV

OFFENCES AND PENALTIES

10. Offences

An operator of an RPAS commits an offence—

- (a) by operating an RPAS during the period 26th day of October to the 8th day of November 2026 without registering with the ECCAA to operate an RPAS during the CHOGM period.
- (b) by operating an RPAS without the prior approval from the Antigua and Barbuda ATS unit
- (c) by operating an RPAS outside of the limitations and conditions stipulated in the approval granted by the ECCAA.
- (d) by operating the RPAS and engaging in activity that will constitute a criminal offence or endanger any life or cause damage to property during the CHOGM period in Antigua and Barbuda.

11. Penalties

(1) An operator of a RPAS who is in contravention of the requirements of Part III “Operations” commits an offence and is liable to a fine of up to \$20,000.00 or imprisonment for up to two years.

(2) An operator who uses an RPAS with the intent to disrupt or endanger civil aviation or any public or private property commits an offence and is liable to a fine of up to three hundred and fifty thousand dollars and imprisonment for up to five years.

(3) An operator who uses an RPAS which results in disruption or endangerment of civil aviation or any public or private property commits an offence and is liable to a fine of up to one million dollars and imprisonment for up to twenty-five years.

12. Powers to confiscate, or destroy RPAS by the ABDF

A member of the Antigua and Barbuda Defence Force or an agent of the ABDF upon having reasonable suspicion that an RPAS is—

- (a) not registered with the ECCAA;
- (b) operating outside the conditions and limitations of the approval given by the ECCAA;
- (c) engaging in activity that will constitute a criminal offence;
- (d) engaging in activity that will endanger any life;
- (e) engaging in activity to cause damage to property;

during the CHOGM period in Antigua and Barbuda, is authorized to confiscate the RPAS, and or use reasonable force to destroy it.

Made the 8th day of October, 2026.

Anthony Whittier,
Director General.