

Drone pilot registration

From: <http://americanlibrariesmagazine.org/blogs/the-scoop/libraries-new-faa-drone-rules/>

These helpful hints are drawn from the [FAA's UAS Registration FAQs](#).

Weight check

- If the drone weighs more than 0.55 pounds (8.8 ounces / 249 grams) at a flight-ready state (with batteries, cameras, and everything else attached), you will have to register.
- Most MiniDrones from Parrot (the Airborne line and most of the very small quadcopters) fall under this weight.
- Popular yet relatively inexpensive midsize drones, such as the UDI UDU818A-1 Discovery Quadcopter, are above the weight limit despite selling for around \$80.
- Once you get above the \$150 range, almost all drones will have to be registered. This includes popular midrange drones like the Parrot AR and Bebop drones.
- Be careful adding additional features to lighter drones; extended batteries (most of the small drones have less than 10 minutes of flight time), cameras, or other cool add-ons might make the weight at takeoff over the limit.

But what if ...

- Even if you're just using the drone in your backyard, if you are over the weight limit, the FAA says you have to register it.
- Even if you got the drone last year before this regulation existed, if it exceeds the weight limit, you have to register.
- Even if the drone is tethered, if it is over the weight limit, it has to be registered.
- Basically, if what you are sending into the air outside is over the 0.55-pound weight limit, you will have to register it with the FAA or face some rather steep penalties that might not seem as big if you were talking about an airplane but are going to seem a bit much when applied to your unregistered toy. (Spoiler alert: They are a heck of a lot more than the \$5 registration fee—up to \$27,500 for civil penalties and \$250,000 and three years in prison for criminal penalties.)

How to register

- Starting on December 21, US citizens over age 13 will be able to register their drones at <http://www.faa.gov/uas/registration/>.

- It is a good idea to do it quickly, because for the first month (until January 20, 2016) the \$5 registration fee is either waived or refunded (it says waived in the press release, and refunded on the registration page).
- Once registered, you will get a unique registration number that you have to mark on the drone in a legible and visible way.

Post-registration fun times

Even after registering a drone, there is a great deal to learn:

- Read the FAA's [Unmanned Aircraft Systems \(Drones\) FAQ](#).
- Follow the [dos and don'ts of model aircraft flight](#).
- Find out more at [KnowBeforeYouFly.org](#) and its [recreational flight brochure](#).
- Reach out to a local group or members of the [Academy of Model Aeronautics](#) for more information and potential program planning.