



U.S. Department
of Transportation
**Federal Aviation
Administration**

800 Independence Ave., SW.,
Washington, DC 20591

AUG 16 2016

Mr. Gregory S. Walden
Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld LLP
1333 New Hampshire Avenue, NW.
Washington, DC 20036

Dear Mr. Walden:

Thank you for your July 29 letter about unmanned aircraft systems (UAS) remote pilot training and testing.

We understand your desire to ensure that the aeronautical knowledge test for part 107 airmen focus on the particular knowledge and skills required to safely operate a UAS in the National Airspace System (NAS). When developing the knowledge test, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) carefully considered many factors, including what knowledge and risk management skills should be required to obtain a Remote Pilot Certificate with a small UAS (sUAS) rating and safely operate under part 107. We are confident that the areas of knowledge included in section 107.73 carefully considered the comments to our initial proposal in the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) and are relevant to safe sUAS operations in the NAS.

While the FAA did not establish formal education or training requirements for part 107, we have made self-study material available. We have published the Remote Pilot – Small Unmanned Aircraft Systems Airman Certification Standards (ACS). The ACS communicates elements of the aeronautical knowledge areas required of a part 107 Remote Pilot. Thus, the ACS forms the comprehensive standard for what an applicant must know and consider to successfully complete the knowledge test. In addition, it provides references for further research on each area of knowledge.

The free self-study online training for remote pilots, ALC-451: Part 107 Small Unmanned Aircraft Systems is available now at www.faasafety.gov. In an effort to promote safe sUAS operations, we also provide specific safety guidance during the registration process. As we proceed with our work to integrate UAS into the NAS, we will continually consider ways to better provide training and outreach, as our resources allow, and we welcome any feedback your organization may have on our training materials.

Regarding online testing, we are considering this approach for future rulemaking. We welcome any comments and recommendations your organization would like to provide on the matter. Additionally, we appreciate the opportunity to discuss ways to encourage compliance and ensure that remote pilot operators have the knowledge necessary to comply with part 107. The FAA's UAS Integration Office will reach out to the Small UAV Coalition to arrange this meeting.

If you have any additional questions, please contact our UAS Integration Office at (202) 267-8306.

Sincerely,


Earl Lawrence
Director

Unmanned Aircraft Systems Integration Office