States’ Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Laws

Miscellaneous

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

RI ST § 1-8-1
250-RICR-100-00-1.27
800-RICR-10-00-1.17
800-RICR-10-00-1.4

Current through April 3, 2020

RI ST § 1-8-1 Exclusive Aerial Regulations

Subject to federal law, the state of Rhode Island and the Rhode Island Airport Corporation shall have exclusive legal authority to regulate any object capable of flying that is remotely controlled and flies autonomously through software-controlled flight plans embedded in the object’s system by a global-position system, commonly known as unpiloted aerial vehicles, remotely piloted aircraft, drones, or unmanned aircraft systems.

250-RICR-100-00-1.27 Motor Vehicles

A. The traffic laws of the State of Rhode Island are fully applicable unless these regulations provide otherwise.
B. All motor vehicles must be legally street registered and operated by a licensed driver.
C. Motor vehicles shall be operated only in designated areas, no motor vehicles are allowed off roads or trails where prohibited, except with official written permission. All electrically propelled devices, except those used to assist handicap or disabled persons are prohibited on state property unless with official written permission.
D. No person shall park a vehicle so as to block any road, gate or trail or to prevent access to others, nor shall they block another vehicle in a designated parking area, nor shall any vehicle be parked in any area, where prohibited.
E. The speed limit is 25 miles per hour unless otherwise posted.
F. The operator of a motor vehicle shall grant the right-of-way to all pedestrians, persons on horseback and who are using or crossing roads, trails or highways.
G. Airborne conveyances such as balloons, gliders, engine-powered airplanes unmanned aircraft systems, and ultra-lights shall not be operated without official written permission from Individual Park Facility Manager.
H. Off-Road recreational vehicles shall be legally street registered and used in accordance with law. Their use shall be limited to designated areas or trails at designated times.
I. No person shall wash, polish, clean, change oil, or repair any motor vehicle or motorcycle in a Public Reservation.

J. Snowmobile Operation -- General snowmobiles shall be allowed at designated areas and at times designated for those areas.
   1. Snowmobiles must operate within the posted speed limit for that area.
   2. Operators shall grant the right-of-way to all pedestrian, horses and vehicular traffic when operating and crossing roads or trails.
   3. Snowmobiles shall not operate in a manner intended to or reasonably be expected to harass, drive or pursue any wildlife.
   4. In addition to firearm restrictions in R.I. Gen. Laws Chapter 31-3.2, when carrying archery equipment while operating a snowmobile, all arrows shall not be nocked and shall be secured to the bow or in a quiver or other container.

K. Snowmobile Operation - Management Area
   1. Hours of operation are one-half (1/2) hour before sunrise to 11:00 PM in Arcadia and George Washington, only. During the period one-half (1/2) hour after sunset to 11:00 PM, the buddy system must be used.
   2. Hours of operation are one-half (1/2) hour before sunrise to one-half (1/2) hour after sunset in Burlingame Management Area, Wickaboxet, and Woody Hill, only.
   3. During the established shotgun deer season, snowmobiling is not permitted in Management Areas.

L. Snowmobiles Operation - Parks
   Hours of operation are sunrise to sunset in Burlingame, Colt, Lincoln Woods and Snake Den. (See Snowmobiles R.I. Gen. Laws Chapter 31-3.2).

M. The vehicle patterns as established by the filing on May 5, 1972 Regulations of the Department of Natural Resources for Colt State Park, which became effective on June 1, 1972, and which were submitted and recodified in 2017 (see Part 5 of this Subchapter), shall remain in force and are incorporated herein by reference.

N. The Les Pawson Loop in Lincoln Woods, shall have a one-way counterclockwise traffic pattern with two exceptions. When the gates across the road are closed, traffic shall be two-way. That section of road, which lies between Twin River Road and the North Parking Lot area, shall be two-way.

O. Commercial vehicles in excess of two and one-half (2 1/2) tons gross weight are prohibited on the highway running through Veterans Memorial Parkway in East Providence, Dean Parkway in Cranston, and Narragansett Parkway in Warwick, except by official written permission.

800-RICR-10-00-1.17 Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS)

A. All UAS operations must be compliant with Federal statutes, rules, and regulations as amended or promulgated from time to time, including but not limited to 14 C.F.R. § 107 (2016).

B. Pursuant to R.I. Gen. Laws § 1-8-1, RIAC has exclusive legal authority to regulate UAS within the state.

C. Any person operating a UAS or in possession of a UAS on public or private property with the intent to operate shall, upon request, allow the Director or his/her designee, or any state or municipal law enforcement officer to inspect the UAS.
D. The Director or his/her designee, and any state and municipal law enforcement officer has the authority to assist and cooperate in the enforcement of these regulations.

800-RICR-10-00-1.4 Definitions

A. The definitions set forth herein are derived from, and shall be interpreted to be consistent with, Title 14 of the Code of Federal Regulations (“C.F.R.”), the Uniform Aeronautical Regulatory Act (“UAR”), and R.I. Gen. Laws §§ 1-4-1 et seq., and 1-2-3.1. The following words and phrases shall have meanings as set forth below:

...  

8. “Balloon” means a lighter than air Aircraft that is not engine-driven and that sustains flight through the use of either gas buoyancy or an airborne heater and may be further characterized as a Manned Free Balloon or an Unmanned Free Balloon.

...  

36. “Unmanned aircraft” or “UA” means an Aircraft operated without the possibility of direct human intervention from within or on the Aircraft.
37. “Unmanned aircraft system” or “UAS” means a UA and its associated elements that is capable of sustained flight in the atmosphere, including communication links and the components that control the UA, that are required for the pilot in command to operate safely and efficiently in the national airspace system. The UA may be remotely controlled or may fly autonomously through software-controlled flight plans in their embedded systems working in conjunction with GPS.