



# The National Agricultural Law Center

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## States' Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Laws: *California*



This material is based upon work supported by the National Agricultural Library, Agricultural Research Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture

# A National Agricultural Law Center Research Publication

## States' Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Laws: California

**CA FOOD & AG § 11901**  
**CA FOOD & AG § 11902**  
**CA FOOD & AG § 11902.5**  
**CA FOOD & AG § 11910**

*Current through November 6, 2022*

### **CA FOOD & AG § 11901 Manned Pest Control Aircraft Pilot's Certificate; Commercial Pilot's Certificate; Medical Certificate**

(a) It is unlawful for any person to operate a manned aircraft in pest control unless the pilot operating the aircraft holds a valid manned pest control aircraft pilot's certificate issued by the director and an appropriate and valid commercial pilot's certificate and a current appropriate medical certificate issued by the Federal Aviation Administration.

(b) It is unlawful for any person to operate an unmanned aircraft system in pest control unless the pilot operating the unmanned aircraft system holds a valid manned pest control aircraft pilot's certificate or a valid unmanned pest control aircraft pilot's certificate issued by the director and is certified or otherwise authorized by the Federal Aviation Administration to operate an unmanned aircraft system approved by the Federal Aviation Administration to conduct pest control.

### **CA FOOD & AG § 11902 Designation as Journeyman or Apprentice**

(a) Each manned pest control aircraft pilot's certificate shall designate the manned pest control aircraft pilot's status as a journeyman or apprentice.

(b) Each unmanned pest control aircraft pilot's certificate shall designate the unmanned pest control aircraft pilot's status as a journeyman, apprentice, or vector control technician.

### **CA FOOD & AG § 11902.5 Unmanned Pest Control Aircraft Pilot's Certificate Eligibility Requirements**

To be eligible for an unmanned pest control aircraft pilot's certificate under the status of vector control technician, a pilot shall be certified by the State Department of Public Health as a vector control technician in the category



of mosquito control pursuant to paragraph (1) of subdivision (a) of Section 2052 of the Health and Safety Code.

## **CA FOOD & AG § 11910 Refusal, Revocation or Suspension of Certificate; Grounds; Hearing**

(a) The director may refuse to issue a manned or unmanned pest control aircraft pilot certificate to an applicant and may revoke or suspend a manned or unmanned pest control aircraft pilot certificate after a hearing in which one or more of the following findings are made:

(1) The person is not qualified to conduct the pest control operations in accordance with the certificate.

(2) The application or certificate is for the operation of a manned aircraft in pest control and the person does not hold an appropriate and valid commercial pilot's certificate and a current appropriate medical certificate issued by the Federal Aviation Administration.

(3) The application or certificate is for the operation of an unmanned aircraft system in pest control and the person does not hold a certificate or other authorization issued by the Federal Aviation Administration for the operation of an unmanned aircraft system authorized by the Federal Aviation Administration for pest control.

(4) The person has violated any provision of, or any regulation adopted pursuant to, this division or Division 7 (commencing with Section 12501) pertaining to pesticides, any regulation of a county agricultural commissioner, or any industrial safety order of the Department of Industrial Relations, or has not complied with any order of the director or commissioner as authorized by Section 11737.

(5) The person has violated any regulation or privacy guideline adopted by the Federal Aviation Administration pertaining to the commercial operation of an unmanned aircraft system.

(b) The director may, pending a hearing, suspend or condition the certificate of any pest control aircraft pilot when, upon an investigation that the director determines to be necessary and upon the receipt of affidavits by the enforcement personnel provided in Section 11501.5 or injured parties, the director finds that continuance of the certificate endangers public welfare or safety. The director may terminate the suspension or condition upon the taking of corrective action that the director determines to be satisfactory to ensure qualification or compliance with the law or regulations. In that event, the matter may proceed to hearing as though that action had not been taken.

