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States' Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Laws: *Massachusetts*



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702 CMR 3.02

Current through November 11, 2022

702 CMR 3.02 Registration of Aircraft

(1) Pursuant to M.G.L. c. 90, § 49(b), every person owning a civil aircraft which must be registered or certified by the FAA, and which is based in the commonwealth for more than 60 days, but less than 180 days during any 12-month period, shall, unless that aircraft is properly registered with another state or territory of the United States, register the aircraft with the division pursuant to 702 CMR 3.03 and 3.04.

(2) Pursuant to M.G.L. c. 90, § 49(b), every person owning a civil aircraft which must be registered or certified by the FAA, and which is based in the commonwealth for more than 180 days during any 12-month period, shall, regardless of whether that aircraft is properly registered with another state or territory of the United States, register the aircraft with the division pursuant to 702 CMR 3.03 and 3.04.

(3) No aircraft, except a public aircraft, shall be deemed registered with the division unless and until the applicant furnishes proof that the aircraft meets all the requirements of M.G.L. c. 90, § 48, and that the owner of the aircraft possesses all licenses or certificates required pursuant to 14 C.F.R. Subchapter C, and any other applicable federal law, regulation, order or directives, which may include, in the case of Unmanned Aerial Vehicles, a Certificate of Authorization.

(4) Except as provided below, any tax on the sale or use of an aircraft required to be registered shall be paid by the purchaser or user of such aircraft prior to the time the owner applies to the division for registration pursuant to 702 CMR 3.02 and 3.03.

(5) Neither the owner nor anyone having custody of an aircraft shall permit any person to operate such aircraft within the commonwealth unless the aircraft is permitted to operate within the commonwealth pursuant to M.G.L. c. 90, § 48, 14 C.F.R. Subchapter C and 702 CMR 3.02(1) through (4).

(6) No person shall operate an aircraft or permit any other person to operate such aircraft within the commonwealth unless the aircraft is permitted to operate within the commonwealth pursuant to M.G.L. c. 90, § 48, 14 C.F.R. Subchapter C and 702 CMR 3.02(1) through (4).

(7) Those persons so required by M.G.L. c. 90, § 49, shall:



- (a) Annually register any federal aircraft licenses or certificates issued by the FAA or other applicable federal authority with the division on forms provided by the division for that purpose. Persons registering such licenses or certificates with the division shall notify the division within ten days of any change in any of the conditions reported in the registration; and
 - (b) Pay any fee determined by the division pursuant to M.G.L. c. 90, § 49 for registration with the division.
- (8) Upon receipt and review of all licenses or certificates required by 702 CMR 3.02(1) through (7), the division shall issue:
- (a) A Certificate of Registration. All such certificates of registration issued under this section shall be invalid unless stamped by the division and signed by the person to whom issued, and shall expire within one year on the date stated on the certificate.
 - (b) Except in the case of unmanned aerial vehicles, a decal sticker to be displayed on the right side of the registered aircraft either:
 - 1. No less than three nor more than ten inches to the left of the letter “N” which precedes the aircraft registration number, if said number is on the fuselage.
 - 2. The lower left hand corner of any side window located on the right side of the aircraft.
- (9) In the event of transfer of an aircraft:
- (a) The transferor of an aircraft must immediately notify the division of the transfer. The transferor shall furnish the division with the name and address of the person to whom such transfer or assignment was made.
 - (b) The transferor shall remove or obliterate any decal sticker issued pursuant to 702 CMR 3.02(8)(b) so as to indicate its cancellation prior to delivery of the aircraft to the transferee or assignee.
 - (c) The transferor shall request the division to cancel the decal sticker issued pursuant to 702 CMR 3.02(8).
- (10) Decal stickers issued to balloons pursuant to 702 CMR 3.02(8)(b) may, in lieu of being displayed, be carried with the aircraft papers in the registered balloon.

