

FAQ's

LICENCES

Do you need a licence if you are a photographer?

Not necessarily. Smaller RPA under 2kg can be used for commercial purposes but you are limited as to where you can fly them and without a licence, would break rules. From a business public liability perspective, it would be much harder to insure as most RPA and business insurers will not cover commercial RPA for pilots without an RePL. As a professional photographer, you would want to fly wherever you want and know how to do that. The only way to do that is to be licenced. This also gives you credibility as a professional photographer.

Do you need a licence to fly a drone? What if it's just for fun?

No you don't. There are many RPA you can fly just for fun, but you still need to understand the rules. There are some great resources on the CASA website to help you understand them, plus we have a course called 'Flying Start' that teaches you just that.

What is required to obtain a Remote Pilot Licence (RePL)?

There are no pre-requisites or age limits for an RePL. All you need is your commitment to complete your RePL which involves 8 units of theory training, plus a Radio Operators' Certificate (included). Then there is practical flying of 5 hours minimum, a theory and practical test, once passed, your licenses are issued.

What is required to gain a RPA Operator's Certificate (ReOC)?

For those who want to commercially operate in unmanned aviation and be able to fly night operations, operations in controlled airspace and operations above 400', a ReOC is also required to enable suitable qualified pilots to carry out those operations. We have a 'Rapid ReOC' course which manages the entire process for you directly with CASA.

What's the difference between a Remote Pilot Licence (RePL) and the RPA Operator's Certificate (ReOC)?

A ReOC is issued is an organisational certification allowing an business (individual or otherwise) to then be able to operate the full extent of RPA operations that an RePL holder cannot. A ReOC holder is then able to employ pilots with an RePL to fly all operations the ReOC holder is certified to perform.

How long does my licence last? Do I need to renew it?

Your license never expires. There may be recency requirements for your employer or even yourself if you hold a ReOC, but as a rule, the license itself never expires.

COURSES

Do I need previous experience to attend a drone course?

The majority of our courses – such as the RePL are designed for students with no experience at all. Other courses are built for students with an existing RePL.

Do I need to take time off work to complete your courses?

Not necessarily. We offer online theory study where the majority of your course is online. If you choose a face-to-face course, then time off may be needed depending on when that course is run.

What support is available once I have completed my training?

At the Ripper Academy, when you train with us, you're always with us. At any time, you can call any of our staff or instructors who will always help and mentor you at any stage.

Do you offer fully online courses?

Yes. Courses such as the Aeronautical Radio Operators' Certificate are available 100% online. The majority of our other courses have an element of flight involved so there is usually always some practical face-to-face flight.

Can I bring my own drone to the course?

Providing it is of the same RPA category type, yes.

How long is a typical drone course?

Our RePL has a minimum requirement of 5 hours flight (face-to-face) and 10 hours face-to-face learning. Usually, students would expect around 20 hours contact time delivered over 1, 2 or 4 weeks depending on the size of the group and your commitment to study.

Are there any prerequisites to the Remote Pilot Course?

No. The course is designed for students with no prior experience at all. Spoken English language proficiency is involved, so is the only limiting factor for the Radio Operators' Certificate element (which is not compulsory, but recommended).

What aircraft can I fly with my Remote Pilot Licence?

With your initial issue, you can fly any RPA commercially (included) multi-rotor below 7kg.

Do I need to purchase my own aircraft prior to RPAS training?

No. We supply everything you need – so, train using our aircraft – it's safer that way! Then when you've passed, you're more than welcome to buy your first DJI Aircraft through us! (at a special price of course – ask about drones when you speak to us).

GENERAL

Can I fly my remote aircraft at night?

In order to fly at night, you would need to complete your Night Rating (CASA 01/17) with us. You must be an RePL holder and you must only exercise your Night Rating whilst flying under a ReOC.

Can I fly my drone Beyond Visual Line of Sight (BVLOS)?

No. All RPA must be flown visually, and within line of sight only. There are advanced qualifications that enable EVLOS and BVLOS (Extended and Beyond Visual Line Of Sight) flight.

ABOUT THE INDUSTRY

Where can this industry take me / What opportunities are there in flying drones?

The industry is moving incredibly fast. There is opportunity everywhere. The best thing to do is to decide what you want to do. Advanced operations in surveys, wildlife monitoring, inspections, agriculture are a few. RPA are being used extensively everywhere... your imagination is the only limitation. We are finding that successful RPA Pilots are specialising in their field, and capitalising on any previous experience which may give you an upper hand in establishing yourself in a niche market.

Does completing the RePL course help us gain employment?

Yes of course. If you're looking to fly RPA commercially – either for yourself or someone else, this is the most important part of that journey.

ABOUT RIPPER

Why Choose Ripper Academy?

- Expert trainers in Commercial and unmanned aviation.
- Multiple learning methods available to suit you.
- Advanced flight training options available.
- Long established in commercial operations as well as RPA training.
- Availability of instructors whenever you need them.
- Delivery locations nationwide and fast response / delivery for customised corporate courses
- Payment plans
- Specialised training courses
- Network opportunities through our partners and contacts

What makes the Ripper drone courses so unique?

- Our experience in operations across a wide range of sectors and applications.
- We deliver captivating content with engaging instruction.
- Get Access to the very latest advanced RPA.
- Fast response and constant availability.
- Broad location of training locations.

Who will be training me for my course/what qualifications/experience do they have?

Our instructors have a varied skillset, which, as a team, makes us quite unique. From current Commercial Instrument Rated (IERX) pilots to expert trainers in Night Ops / thermal imaging, LIDAR and mapping, to expert chemical delivery and inspection trainers. All are certified to deliver training in the particular category taught.

COMMERCIAL

What commercial drone should we buy?

Options are varied and very case-specific. We can advise on the best RPA for your needs, so contact us for an unbiased opinion on what's best for your application, situation and budget.

Do I need a licence to fly a drone commercially?

For RPA above 2kg - yes. Below 2kg you can fly commercially, but are very limited and may not be insurable.

Our business wants to get some drone footage done e.g.: drone photography – What are the steps to getting this done by Ripper Corp?

Simply call us and speak to any of our staff. We'll work out whether it's best for us to shoot for you, or if we should train you to do the job yourself.

Our business needs an asset inspection? What are the steps to getting this done at Ripper Corp?

Again, just call. We have the latest RPA to perform all manner of asset inspection day or night.