

Medium RPA Enablement Review
Aviation Safety Advisory Panel Technical Working Group
Tasking Instructions

The Medium RPA enablement Review Technical Working Group is established and operates in accordance with the Terms of Reference of the Aviation Safety Advisory Panel (ASAP) dated November 2021 (or as amended).

Background

The Australian RPAS industry is expanding in complexity and breadth, using heavier and larger RPA for various operations. This growth and development are not easily enabled by the existing regulations that were developed in early 2001, or by the associated standards.

We have reviewed our regulations and standards and seek to co-develop with industry a change to our approach that would enable the issue of RePL's and ReOC's that cover all RPA within the medium weight range for a particular category, rather than the present 'per model' system.

To ensure RPA operators have the necessary competence to operate in a medium weight range for a particular category, CASA proposes to introduce an additional assessment pathway that would enable the issue of category-based medium weight range remote pilot licences.

In May and June 2024, CASA sought leading industry feedback through a limited tender process, on what the anticipated future flight test standards, and knowledge concepts, would be for a remote pilot to support required operational advancement from initial RePL competencies up to and including medium RPA competencies.

The input from this tender process informed development of the comprehensive flight test standards to assess a remote pilot's understanding and proficiency to operate any medium RPAS within a category. These standards underpin the proposed medium category based remote pilot licence pathway.

The proposed comprehensive flight test standards seek to ensure expanded remote pilot capability to deal with wider ranges of variables in RPAS operations. When a remote pilot is more informed, experienced and capable they are then empowered to conduct more RPAS operations with a wider range of RPAs in a safer manner.

The competence and professionalism of the examiner assessing the comprehensive flight test are integral to achieving the intended outcomes. CASA recognises the valuable expertise of current examiners and proposes to introduce an examiner approval mechanism to further support and enhance their role in ensuring high standards in RPAS operations.

In support of this approach, we seek TWG review and feedback on CASAs proposal to move to medium category RePL and ReOC, CASA's position that a remote pilot would require a higher standard of knowledge and proficiency from that of an initial RePL to be able to fly any type of medium RPA in a particular category, weighing between 25 kg and 150 kg, and the proposed assessment pathway that underpins the revised approach. Following consultation with the Chair of the ASAP, the ASAP agreed in-principle to form a TWG for this purpose.

Aim

To better enable medium RPAS operations in Australia, while maintaining or improving aviation safety. We are seeking TWG feedback on the following:

1. CASA proposal to move towards a category based RPAS framework, for RePL and ReOC.
2. CASA proposal that medium RPA remote pilot capabilities and the associated standards, would require more robust competency, training and assessment when compared with the capabilities and standards required for smaller RPA.

3. CASA's proposed medium comprehensive flight test standards for multi-rotor (priority), powered lift, helicopter, aeroplane.

TWG outcomes

We request the TWG return their comments and feedback:

- on items 1 and 2 of the stated aims within 2 weeks of the first meeting.
- on item 3 of the stated aims within 4 weeks of the first meeting.

We request feedback from each TWG member be sent to asap@casa.gov.au any time before the deadline.

A wrap up meeting will be planned for approximately 6 weeks after the first meeting if the TWG requires it. Or if the TWG agree a second meeting unnecessary, a closing summary will be shared with the TWG once all feedback from the TWG has been collated and processed.

CASA actions after TWG

Once the TWG process has concluded, CASA will progress to public consultation. Following consultation, we intend to release an exposure draft to the TWG before making in the Part 101 MOS.

Event	Timeline	Virtual/ Onsite	Location
TWG meeting to introduce proposed standards and pathway for rollout	Once	Virtual	Teams
Initial meeting on Examiner content with CRI group, agreed in above TWG meeting	Once	Virtual	Teams
TWG review of proposed category based RPAS framework, RePL and ReOC	2 weeks		
TWG review of proposed medium standards	2 weeks		
Development of examiner content with CRI group.	4 weeks	Virtual	Teams
Deadline for feedback to CASA at end of review period.		Email feedback to: asap@casa.gov.au and rpas.policy@casa.gov.au	
Feedback meeting after review of feedback, if required.	2 weeks	Virtual	Teams
CASA to progress consultation of the post TWG standards through CASA consultation hub.	3 months		

Roles and responsibilities

CASA	Technical Working Group Members
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Organise meetings and workshops, and produce agendas, papers and supporting materials.• Facilitate meetings and workshops.• Record insights and findings.• Communicate openly and consistently with working group members about project status and issues.• Respect the time of all working group members by minimising work required to achieve outcomes.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Commit to supporting the project objectives and timeline.• Engage and collaborate constructively at all times.• Prepare for working group activities by reviewing agendas, papers and supporting materials.• Provide timely and considered advice in meetings, and between meetings as required.• Respond to requests for feedback on draft materials within agreed timeframes.

Behaviour

TWG meetings are a place for constructive collaboration. Behaviour likely to disrupt the collaborative nature of the group will not be tolerated. The ASAP secretariat may eject members from the meeting in the event of such behaviour.

Confidentiality

All discussions and materials from TWG meetings should be treated as confidential. Premature dissemination of information may dilute TWG processes, particularly if discussion points remain unsettled or documents are not ready for public consultation.

Reporting arrangements

At the conclusion of the meeting, or soon thereafter, recommendations and reports of the TWG will be provided to the Chair of the ASAP, through the Secretariat.

Consensus

A key aim of the Technical Working Group is that a consensus be reached, wherever possible, in the finalisation and preparation of advice for the Aviation Safety Advisory Panel and CASA.

The Technical Working Group will be guided by the ASAP Terms of Reference (Section 6) with respect to determining and documenting consensus.

Membership

Members of the TWG will be appointed by the ASAP Chair, following ASAP processes.

It is recommended that the membership of the RPAS and AAM Roadmap Review TWG consist of the following persons:

- Industry co-chair (ASAP):
- CASA co-chair: Simon Butler
- Industry Associations and stakeholder organisations
- RPAS training Organisations

- RPAS Operators

Requests for changes to the membership will be made to the Chair of the ASAP, through the Secretariat.

Attendance and travel

Meetings will be facilitated using videoconferencing to eliminate the requirement to travel. This will be coordinated by the ASAP Secretariat or CASA working group lead as required.