



Australian Government
Civil Aviation Safety Authority

KEY PERSONNEL GUIDE REOC CHIEF REMOTE PILOT (CRP)



WHO THIS GUIDE IS FOR:

- Chief remote pilot (CRP) of remotely piloted aircraft system (RPAS) organisations
- Remotely piloted aircraft operator's certificate (ReOC) holders and applicants
- Remote pilots seeking approval as a CRP
- Senior managers overseeing remotely piloted aircraft (RPA) operations
- Personnel responsible for nominating the CRP

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INTRODUCTION

Every remotely piloted aircraft system (RPAS) operator has a responsibility to conduct safe operations. Safe operations rely on competent personnel, effective oversight and clear procedures.

Under CASR Part 101, the chief remote pilot (CRP) is a required role for a ReOC holder. The ReOC holder must maintain a CRP position and nominate a person who holds a remote pilot licence (RePL) and is competent to perform the role.

The CRP provides operational leadership and oversight for the RPAS activities. The role helps oversee safe, compliant and appropriately supervised operations.

The level of oversight, documentation and operational support should reflect the size, complexity and risk of the operation.

This guide explains our expectations for the responsibilities, authority and oversight of a CRP. It should be read with the organisation's documented practices and procedures, ReOC conditions, Civil Aviation Safety Regulations 1998 (CASR) Part 101 and the Part 101 Manual of Standards (MOS).

Reference regulation 101.340 of CASR.

THE ROLE

The CRP helps ensure:

- RPA operations comply with aviation legislation
- operations follow the ReOC conditions and approved documented practices and procedures
- remote pilots hold the right qualifications and competencies
- operational standards and pilot proficiency are monitored
- operational documents remain complete, current and available
- operational risks are identified and managed.

The CRP should remain involved in day-to-day operations. This helps maintain awareness of operational performance, emerging risks and pilot capability.

Depending on the size and complexity of the operation, the CRP may also perform remote pilot duties or other operational roles. In smaller organisations or sole traders, one person may hold several responsibilities.

Where one person holds several roles, the operator should consider whether the person has enough time, knowledge and support to perform each role effectively.

Duties may be delegated to suitably qualified people. However, CASA guidance states responsibilities cannot be delegated.

The organisation must clearly define the CRP's responsibilities, authority and reporting lines in its documented practices and procedures.

We may review operational oversight arrangements, management structures and nominated personnel during ReOC application, variation and oversight activities.



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QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERIENCE

The CRP must hold a remote pilot licence (RePL) and be competent to carry out the CRP functions and duties.

The CRP must have enough operational knowledge and experience for the size, complexity and risk of the operation.

This includes understanding:

- CASR Part 101
- the Part 101 MOS
- the organisation's documented practices and procedures
- the organisation's ReOC conditions
- the types of operations conducted by the organisation
- operational risk controls
- pilot competency and supervision requirements
- the aeronautical information package (AIP)
- relevant safety management system (SMS) requirements.

The CRP must hold, or be able to oversee, the qualifications and competencies relevant to the operation. This may include:

- remotely piloted aircraft (RPA) category and aircraft types used by the operator
- operations involving RPA above 25 kg
- beyond visual line-of-sight (BVLOS) operations
- extended visual line-of-sight (EVLOS) operations
- night operations
- operations over or near people
- operations in controlled airspace
- complex operations conducted under CASA approval.

Additional qualifications or competencies may be required for some operations. This may include holding an aeronautical radio operator certificate (AROC).

A RePL upgrade is required through additional training before operating an RPA in a different category or type.

For BVLOS operations outside an enclosed space, the remote pilot must meet CASA's BVLOS examination requirements or operate under direct supervision as permitted by CASA approval.

We may require practical demonstration or flight testing for some approvals or operational activities.

The CRP should also demonstrate:

- sound operational judgement
- leadership and communication skills
- the ability to manage operational risk
- the ability to support safe decision-making under operational pressure.

Reference regulation 101.340 of CASR, Part 101 MOS and AC 101-01.



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ONGOING QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERIENCE

The CRP must maintain enough operational knowledge to perform the role effectively. This includes remaining familiar with:

- changes to legislation and approvals
- changes to the ReOC conditions and documented practices and procedures
- operational procedures and limitations
- pilot qualifications and competencies
- operational records
- aircraft types and systems used by the operator
- operational risks and controls.

The CRP should maintain regular contact with remote pilots and other operational personnel.

The CRP should keep up to date with:

- operational performance
- occurrence reports
- pilot competency
- safety trends
- operational changes
- emerging risks.

We do not set continuing flight proficiency or currency requirements for all RePL holders. However, CASA guidance states ReOC holders should include proficiency and currency requirements in their documented practices and procedures. Where the documented practices and procedures include proficiency or currency requirements, the operator and personnel must follow them.

Reference AC 101-01.



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RESPONSIBILITIES

The CRP must:

- ensure the RPA operations comply with aviation legislation
- maintain records of qualifications held by each person operating RPA for the operator
- monitor pilot competency and operational standards
- maintain current operational documents and reference material required for the operation.

Reference regulation 101.342 of CASR.

Operational compliance

Operations must be conducted:

- within the ReOC conditions
- within CASA approvals and permissions, where required
- in line with the approved documented practices and procedures
- by personnel who hold the required qualifications and competencies
- using procedures and controls suitable for the operation.

The ReOC holder must ensure operations comply with the law and the conditions of the certificate.

Reference regulations 101.335 and 101.340 of CASR.



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Remote pilot qualifications and competency

The CRP must maintain records of qualifications held by each remote pilot operating RPA for the operator.

The CRP must monitor remote pilot competency and operational standards.

This includes oversight of:

- RePL qualifications
- RPA category and type permissions
- additional approvals or competencies
- induction into the operator's procedures
- practical competency checks
- proficiency and currency requirements in the documented practices and procedures.

CASA guidance states induction should include training in the operator's procedures and practical competency checks on the RPA to be operated.

Reference regulation 101.342 of CASR and AC 101-01.

Type specialists

In larger or more complex operations, the CRP may rely on type specialists to support RPA-specific operational knowledge and procedures.

CASA guidance allows an operator to nominate a type specialist for particular RPA types or specialised operations. The CRP should ensure:

- operational procedures remain consistent with the documented practices and procedures
- pilots receive appropriate aircraft-specific familiarisation and competency checks
- operational limitations and procedures are understood and followed.

Reference AC 101-01.



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Operational documents

The CRP must maintain current operational documents and reference material required for the operation. This may include:

- the documented practices and procedures or operations manual
- RPAS flight manuals
- RPAS maintenance manuals
- CASA approvals and permissions
- ReOC conditions
- operational procedures
- emergency procedures
- training and checking procedures
- relevant AIP material.

CASA guidance states RPA flight and maintenance manuals form part of the operator's documented practices and procedures.

Reference regulations 101.335 and 101.342 of CASR and AC 101-01.

Applications and operational changes

The CRP is responsible for preparing and submitting applications for new or changed operations.

This may include:

- adding a new RPA category
- adding or removing an RPA above 25 kg
- introducing new operational activities
- applying for EVLOS or BVLOS operations
- operations in controlled airspace
- operations over or near people
- operations outside standard operating conditions
- other specialised operations requiring CASA approval.

The CRP should help ensure:

- procedures match the proposed operation
- pilots hold the required qualifications and competencies
- operational risks and controls are identified and documented
- operational documents and records remain current
- personnel understand any new procedures or operational limits.

CASA guidance states that adding a new RPA category, including Medium RPA operations, requires a ReOC variation. The operator must not conduct operations involving a significant change until we provide written authorisation.

Reference regulation 101.355 of CASR and AC 101-01.

Engagement with CASA

The CRP must support CASA oversight of the operator's RPA operations.

This may include:

- completing the CRP assessment
- supporting ReOC application, renewal or variation processes
- supporting CASA inspections or reviews
- providing information about operational procedures
- supporting significant change applications
- helping ensure we receive required applications or notifications.

Reference AC 101-01.



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THE APPOINTMENT

A ReOC holder must nominate a CRP. The CRP must hold a RePL and be competent to perform the functions of the role.

We must approve the nominated CRP before the organisation conducts ReOC operations.

A change to nominated personnel, including the CRP, is a significant change and requires CASA approval.

The operator must ensure the nominated CRP can perform the legislated CRP functions.

Before acting in the role, the CRP must have sound knowledge of:

- the ReOC conditions
- the documented practices and procedures
- the aircraft and systems used
- the organisation's approved operations
- pilot qualifications and proficiency
- operational records
- risk controls
- operational limitations, approval conditions and emergency procedures.

Reference regulations 101.340 and 101.355 of CASR, Part 101 MOS and AC 101-01.



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THE INTERVIEW

We require the nominated CRP to complete an assessment. This may include assessment using scenario-based activities and questions about operating RPA under the conditions of their ReOC.

The nominated CRP should have thorough knowledge of:

- the organisation's documented practices and procedures
- CASR Part 101
- the Part 101 MOS
- aviation safety management systems
- the AIP.

We will assess whether the nominated CRP:

- holds the required RePL
- can perform the CRP functions.

Depending on the operation, we may also assess whether the nominated CRP:

- has knowledge and experience suited to the operator's planned activities
- understands the operator's approvals, procedures and risk controls
- can monitor pilot competency and operational standards
- can maintain required operational records and documents.

Reference AC 101-01.

COMMON RISKS AND CHALLENGES

Many RPAS operations continue to grow in scale, complexity and operational capability. This can create challenges for operational oversight, pilot competency management and procedural consistency.

Effective operational oversight helps ensure pilots remain appropriately qualified, procedures remain current, and operations continue to align with approvals and operational requirements.

Areas requiring ongoing attention may include:

- ensuring pilots operate within their qualifications and competencies
- maintaining procedures that match approved operations
- keeping qualification, training and operational records current
- monitoring pilot proficiency and operational standards
- maintaining current operational documents and procedures
- ensuring operations do not commence before required approvals are in place
- managing operational changes and approvals appropriately
- maintaining oversight across several locations or operational teams
- supporting appropriate procedures for specialised or complex operations
- maintaining clear responsibilities between the CRP and any type specialists.

The CRP plays an important role in identifying emerging operational risks early and maintaining appropriate oversight, records, procedures and engagement with CASA as operations evolve.

RELATED GUIDANCE

- Civil Aviation Safety Regulations 1998 (CASR) Part 101
- Part 101 Manual of Standards (MOS)
- Advisory Circular 101-01: Remotely piloted aircraft systems licensing and operations
- ReOC initial issue, variation and renewal guidance
- ReOC significant and non-significant change guidance
- RPAS sample operations manual
- Guide to the RPAS sample operations manual
- Remote pilot licence (RePL) guidance
- BVLOS exam and approval guidance
- Aeronautical radio operator certificate (AROC) guidance

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