



Regulated drone flight mandate implemented by yearend – CAAP

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Drone owners and operators should register their equipment with the aviation industry's regulatory board and secure the necessary certificate before yearend to avoid the payment of hefty fines for the use of unregistered, remote-controlled aircraft.

William K. Hotchkiss III, director general of the Civil Aviation Authority of the Philippines (CAAP, said at the side-lines of an event in Pasay City on Tuesday: "Before the year ends, we are going to implement it (regulated drone mandate)."

"CAAP is busy preparing to implement a regulated drone mandate to apply tighter security, as it can be really dangerous. This is why we're imposing stricter rules when it comes to UAV (unmanned aerial vehicle)." Mr. Hutchkiss explained.

Under the CAAP's Memorandum Circular No. 21 series of 2014 issued last June 26, drone owners operators are required to register their equipment with the regulatory board and secure certification to operate.

Any operator found violating rules will be fined between P 300,000 to P 500,000 per unauthorized flight depending on the grave of violation" the memorandum says. UAV's include powered parachutes, airplanes, unmanned airships, powered lift devices and rotorcraft.

Citing possible terror threats, CAA's Mr. Hotchkiss said his agency wants drone owners and operators to detail where these vehicles will be used through the certification process.

Under the memorandum, an applicant should meet the following qualifications to be a licensed UAV controller; a "passed" rating in an animation; a "passed" rating in an instrument theory examination; a completion of training course on the operation of the UAV type the applicant possesses; at least five hours experience operating UAV's outside controlled airspace and a radio operator's certificate of proficiency.

All UAV operators and owners, before the year ends, should obtain at least one of the three certification: an air traffic control certificate; a military qualification; or a slight crew license with a command instrument training.

"These measures are made to eliminate the possibility of causing great harm if used by the wrong people." Mr. Hotchkiss said - *Chirsee Jaiyssa V. Dela Paz*