

LEGAL UPDATES

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Don't Miss Your Chance to Provide Comments to the FAA Regarding Proposed UAS Rules

As widely reported, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) recently issued its long-awaited proposed rules on operation of Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) in the national airspace.

The proposed rules are open for a public comment for a period of 60 days, which closes on April 24, 2015. In the past, the FAA has considered public comments and incorporated suggestions into its revisions.

Husch Blackwell's interdisciplinary team of UAS lawyers are gathering suggested comments from clients and others interested in providing comments to the FAA on the proposed rules. The firm anticipates submitting general or industry-focused comments, as well as comments specifically tailored to your company's views. Parties with aligned interests may wish to make a joint submission, which we can also facilitate.

Please see our blog posts addressing the broader list of proposed rules. Potential areas of interest include:

UAS and attachments must weigh less than 55 lbs.

Line-of-sight operation only

Live video feed not sufficient

Cannot pass off operation to chain of operators each in line of sight

Flight path cannot cross directly over any non-covered persons

Express waiver and consent not sufficient

UAS must be operated at or below 500 feet

Operators must be at least 17 years old and pass an FAA-administered aeronautical knowledge test

UAS cannot have payloads or engage in towing

MicroUAS category (4.4 pounds or less) is contemplated for future proposed rules and would potentially allow flight directly over non-covered persons

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