



MAAC Statement

RE: Formal Comment on Pending Unmanned Aircraft Legislation

On July 15, 2017 Transport Canada published the expected first draft of proposed changes to the Canadian Aviation Regulations (CARs) related to all Unmanned Aircraft under 25kgs and operated within “Visual Line of Sight” (VLOS) of the pilot. (link below)

<http://www.gazette.gc.ca/rp-pr/p1/2017/2017-07-15/html/reg2-eng.php>

As noted in previous news and information releases, these legislative changes will have a direct impact on recreational model aviation in Canada. MAAC has been working closely with Transport Canada to ensure our members and their clubs are not adversely impacted by these changes.

To that end, the Board of Directors was very pleased to report that within the published text, Transport Canada recognized our association’s history, structure and safety culture and clearly stated their intention to provide MAAC and its members with an exemption from this legislation.

As required by the federal legislative process, after this initial publication, formal comments/concerns were solicited by Transport Canada with a deadline of Oct 13, 2017 for submissions. Comments will be reviewed and considered with any determination of changes being made by Transport Canada before being published a second time in the Canada Gazette 2. The legislation becomes law 6 months after the publishing date of the Gazette 2 publication. Transport Canada expects the proposed legislation to become law in 2018.

The MAAC Board of Directors and their subject matter experts have been carefully reviewing the pending legislation in depth in order to determine if formal comment from MAAC was necessary. Although MAAC members have been promised exemption from this legislation, it was determined that it is necessary for MAAC to advocate for all recreational modellers in Canada. As you will find within the details of MAAC’s formal comment, it is clear that recreational modellers, outside of MAAC, will face onerous regulations that will likely place law-abiding citizens in conflict with law enforcement, even if operating from their own property in a reasonable fashion.

MAAC’s recommendations are not intended to be adversarial. MAAC membership is rich with respected expertise and experience well beyond the model aviation community that can benefit all stakeholders affected by this proposed legislation. It should be expected that MAAC’s expertise will continue to be recognized and respected by Transport Canada and that our working relationship will continue to strengthen.

This Board of Directors understands that the majority of recreational modellers are not “created” by MAAC and that the association depends on both new, and experienced, recreational modellers seeking membership with established skill-sets. If overly burdensome regulations face responsible recreational modellers before they discover MAAC, and the benefits the association can offer, we will not only lose valuable members and the skill sets they bring, but will witness an accelerated decline in our hobby as a whole. Recreational model aviators are found at the foundation of most of general aviation’s greatest innovations from the Wright Brothers, to the first man on the moon. History will likely show that future aviation innovators will possess that same DNA and must be allowed the same opportunity.

Until this process is completed and enacted into law, the Interim Order relating to model aircraft initially issued by the Minister of Transport on March 20th, since updated on June 16th, remains in effect for all recreational modellers.

MAAC members flying at sanctioned fields and events are exempt from the restrictions of that interim order. (link below)

<https://www.tc.gc.ca/eng/mediaroom/interim-order-respecting-use-model-aircraft.html>

The MAAC Board of Directors applauds the safety record of all recreational modellers and wish to emphasise that your diligence has never been more important. Please fly safe and smart while continuing to mentor and promote fun and safety in this tremendous hobby. Thank you all.