

Flight restriction zones for drones, etc. are expanding to 1,000 m

Those who fly drones, etc. in flight restriction zones need to notify the police in advance



Restrictions are strengthened due to the amendment to The Drone Act

Broader flight restriction zones

Flight restriction zones are expanding from approximately 300 m surrounding the premises, etc. of designated facilities, etc. to approximately 1,000 m

New penalties

In addition to existing penalties relating to flights in the airspace above premises, etc. of designated facilities, new penalties are established for flight restriction zones other than such premises, etc.

Flights in airspace above premises, etc.

Up to one year's imprisonment or a fine of up to 500,000 yen

New penalties

Flights in airspace above the surrounding area of the premises, etc.

Up to six months' imprisonment or a fine of up to 500,000 yen

See the National Police Agency website for details



About designated facilities

- Designated national facilities, etc.**
(National Diet Building, Prime Minister's Office of Japan, Supreme Court, Imperial Palace, etc.)
 - Diplomatic establishments, etc.**
 - Defense facilities**
 - Airports**
 - Nuclear facilities**
- *Categories ① and ② include temporarily designated facilities such as venues for events, etc. attended by Japanese dignitaries, and conference venues, etc. used for preparing and hosting international conferences attended by foreign dignitaries.

Exemptions from the flight restrictions

- Flights in airspace above flight restriction zones by administrators of designated facilities, or by those who have obtained consent from the facilities administrator**
E.g. Aerial photography, etc. for measurement, infrastructure inspections, media coverage, news reports, etc.
- Flights in airspace above land by the landowner, occupier, or those who have obtained their consent**
E.g. The spraying of agrochemicals on farmland by the owner or occupier, practicing the operation of a drone above the garden of a private residence, etc.
- Flights in airspace above flight restriction zones for performing the duties of national or local governments**
E.g. Operations for responding to natural disasters

About procedures for prior notification

Even if one of the exemptions from the flight restrictions listed above in categories ① to ③ is applicable, it is necessary to give the police, etc. prior notification (in principle, at least 48 hours before a flight begins).



About drones, etc. subject to regulation

Small unmanned aircraft system (including those weighing less than 100 g)

- Drones
- Radio-controlled aircraft
- Helicopters for spraying agrochemicals etc.

Specific aerial equipment

- Balloons
- Paragliders
- Hang gliders
- Jet-propelled aircraft etc.

Please also refer to regulations relating to unmanned aircraft (weighing 100 g or more) in the Civil Aeronautics Act.

Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism



National Police Agency / Prefectural Police

In accordance with the Drone Act, it is mandatory for those flying a drone, etc. in a flight restriction zone* to give prior notification to their Prefectural Public Safety Commission (the police), etc. and other bodies/organizations

*Cases in which any of the exemptions from the flight restrictions in categories ① to ③ are applicable

In principle, it is necessary to give prior notification at least 48 hours before the flight is scheduled to begin (in the case of natural disasters, emergencies, or similarly unavoidable circumstances, immediately prior to the flight).

All flight restriction zones



Prefectural Public Safety Commission (Police)

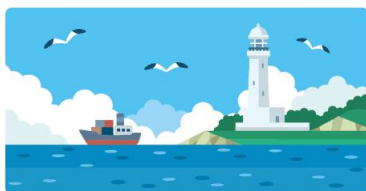
It is necessary to notify your Prefectural Public Safety Commission via the police station with jurisdiction over the flight restriction zone. In addition to a police station, this can be done online via the e-Gov electronic application service.

e-Gov electronic application service



In addition to giving prior notification to your Prefectural Public Safety Commission (the police), it is also necessary to give prior notification to related organizations when flying in the following flight restriction zones

Flight restriction zones that include sea areas

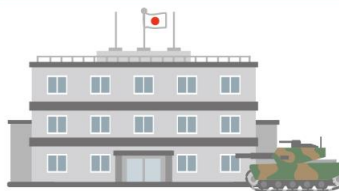


It is necessary to give prior notification to the Commander of the Regional Coast Guard Headquarters with jurisdiction over the applicable sea area.

Japan Coast Guard
(Japanese text only)



Flight restriction zones of designated defense facilities



It is necessary to give prior notification to the facilities administrator of the applicable defense facility.

Ministry of Defense



Flight restriction zones of designated airports



It is necessary to give prior notification to the facilities administrator of the applicable airport.

Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism
(Japanese text only)



Procedures for obtaining consent from the applicable facilities administrator

Regarding flights with the consent from the facilities administrator of designated facilities or from landowners or occupiers, falling under exemptions ① or ②, it is necessary to submit a copy of written evidence that consent has been granted when giving prior notification to the police, etc.

Please contact the administrator, etc. of each facility regarding the procedure for obtaining consent.

National Police Agency / Prefectural Police