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A2 Checklist

For the Practical Self-Study

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Pilots wishing to fly in accordance with subcategory A2 rules must show to be familiar with the practical aspects of operation. For this purpose, a pilot must carry out checklist below flying in an A3 environment, i.e., well away from built-up areas (at least 150m from residential, settlement, industrial and recreational areas). The pilot should carry out as many exercises and flights until he/she feels safe in handling the drone in any situation. Subsequently, the confirmation of the completion of the practical self-study must be made directly in UAS.gate.

The following table[1] of practical competencies has to be considered:

Before the flight	

Preparation of the drone	1. Do you know how to check if you are in a Flight Restriction Zone?
	 2. In case of a payload: Is it compatible with the drone?
	 3. Is the drone suitable for flying in the A2 Subcategory? i.e.:
	    a. Does the drone have a C2 label?
	    b. If the drone does not have a C-label ('legacy' drone), you can still fly your drone in the A2 till the end of 2023 if it is less than 2kg.
	 4. Do you know how to do a flight plan?
	 5. Do you know how you would react if uninvolved people strayed into your flight path?
	 6. Can you do a risk assessment?
	 7. Can you check current meteorological conditions and the weather forecast for the time planned for the operation?

Preparation for the flight	1. Can you correctly set up your drone?
	    a. Do you know how to check if your propellors, batteries and gimbal are secure?
	 2. Do you know how to update the software/firmware of the drone?
	 3. Do you know how to calibrate your drone? E.g.:
	    a. IMU
	    b. Compass
	 4. Do you know how to check the status of the battery?
	 5. Do you know how to update the geo-awareness system? Make sure it is up to date.
	 6. [if needed] Do you know how to set the height limitation?
	 7. Does the drone have a slow speed mode? If yes, use it.
	 8. Can you check if the C2 link works correctly?

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[1] The table is based on EASA's AMC2 to Section UAS.Open.030(2)(b): UAS operations in subcategory A2

During the flight	

Normal conditions	1. Do you know how to manually take-off?
	2. Can you:
	    a. hover the drone?
	    b. perform coordinated large turns?
	    c. perform coordinated tight turns?
	    d. perform straight flight at a constant altitude?
	    e. change direction, height and speed?
	    f. follow a path?
	    g. return the drone towards yourself after it has been placed at a distance that no longer allows its orientation to be distinguished (in case of multirotor drone)?
	    h. perform a horizontal flight at a different speed (critical high speed or critical low speed), in case of fixed-wing drone?
	3. You will not fly the drone into a no-fly or restricted zone unless you have permission to do so.
	4. Do you know how to use some external references to assess the distance and height of the drone?
	5. Can you perform a return to home procedure — automatic or manual
	6. Do you know how to safely land the drone?
	7. In the case of a fixed-wing drone: Can you perform a landing procedure and missed approach?
	8. Can you monitor the status and endurance of the drone?
	9. Do you know how you can maintain sufficient separation from obstacles?

Abnormal conditions	1. Can you manage the drone's flight path in abnormal situations? 2. Could you manage a situation when the drone positioning equipment is impaired, i.e. GPS signal is lost? 3. Do you know how to manage a situation of an incursion of a person into the area of operation, and take appropriate measures to maintain safety? 4. How would you react and manage the exit from the operation zone as defined during the flight preparation? 5. How would you deal with the intrusion of a manned aircraft the operational area? 6. How would you manage the incursion of another drone in the area of operation? 7. What action would you take to resume manual control of the drone when automatic systems render the situation dangerous do you have a loss of link procedure? 8. What recovery methods do you have in case of C2 link loss?
After the flight	
Briefing, debriefing and feedback	Do you know how: 1. to shut down the drone and secure it? 2. to inspect the drone after the flight? 3. to keep records of the general condition (components and battery)? 4. to conduct a review and debriefing of the operation? 5. to identify situations where an occurrence report is necessary and how to file it?

Self-declaration
Did you make enough practice flights and do you feel safe to handle your drone? ⇨ If yes, then you can declare your knowledge in UAS.gate during the ordering process of the A2 certificate.