

**PART 101—MOORED BALLOONS, KITES, AMATEUR ROCKETS AND UNMANNED FREE  
BALLOONS**

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**Authority:** 49 U.S.C. 106(g), 40103, 40113–40114, 45302, 44502, 44514, 44701–44702, 44721, 46308.

**Subpart A—General**

**§ 101.1 Applicability.**

(a) This part prescribes rules governing the operation in the United States, of the following:

(1) Except as provided for in §101.7, any balloon that is moored to the surface of the earth or an object thereon and that has a diameter of more than 6 feet or a gas capacity of more than 115 cubic feet.

(2) Except as provided for in §101.7, any kite that weighs more than 5 pounds and is intended to be flown at the end of a rope or cable.

(3) Any amateur rocket except aerial firework displays.

<remaining section 101.1 on balloons and kites sniped>

[Doc. No. 1580, 28 FR 6721, June 29, 1963, as amended by Amdt. 101–1, 29 FR 46, Jan. 3, 1964; Amdt. 101–3, 35 FR 8213, May 26, 1970; Amdt. 101–8, 73 FR 73781, Dec. 4, 2008; 74 FR 38092, July 31, 2009]

**§ 101.3 Waivers.**

No person may conduct operations that require a deviation from this part except under a certificate of waiver issued by the Administrator.

[Doc. No. 1580, 28 FR 6721, June 29, 1963]

**§ 101.5 Operations in prohibited or restricted areas.**

No person may operate a moored balloon, kite, amateur rocket, or unmanned free balloon in a prohibited or restricted area unless he has permission from the using or controlling agency, as appropriate.

[Doc. No. 1457, 29 FR 46, Jan. 3, 1964, as amended at 74 FR 38092, July 31, 2009]

**§ 101.7 Hazardous operations.**

(a) No person may operate any moored balloon, kite, amateur rocket, or unmanned free balloon in a manner that creates a hazard to other persons, or their property.

(b) No person operating any moored balloon, kite, amateur rocket, or unmanned free balloon may allow an object to be dropped therefrom, if such action creates a hazard to other persons or their property.

(Sec. 6(c), Department of Transportation Act (49 U.S.C. 1655(c)))

[Doc. No. 12800, 39 FR 22252, June 21, 1974, as amended at 74 FR 38092, July 31, 2009]

**Subpart C— Amateur Rockets**

**§ 101.21 Applicability.**

(a) This subpart applies to operating unmanned rockets. However, a person operating an unmanned rocket within a restricted area must comply with §101.25(b)(7)(ii) and with any additional limitations imposed by the using or controlling agency.

(b) A person operating an unmanned rocket other than an amateur rocket as defined in §1.1 of this chapter must comply with 14 CFR Chapter III.

[Doc. No. FAA–2007–27390, 73 FR 73781, Dec. 4, 2008]

**§ 101.22 Definitions.**

The following definitions apply to this subpart:

(a) *Class 1—Model Rocket* means an amateur rocket that:

- (1) Uses no more than 125 grams (4.4 ounces) of propellant;
- (2) Uses a slow-burning propellant;
- (3) Is made of paper, wood, or breakable plastic;
- (4) Contains no substantial metal parts; and
- (5) Weighs no more than 1,500 grams (53 ounces), including the propellant.

(b) *Class 2—High-Power Rocket* means an amateur rocket other than a model rocket that is propelled by a motor or motors having a combined total impulse of 40,960 Newton-seconds (9,208 pound-seconds) or less.

(c) *Class 3—Advanced High-Power Rocket* means an amateur rocket other than a model rocket or high-power rocket.

[Doc. No. FAA–2007–27390, 73 FR 73781, Dec. 4, 2008]

**§ 101.23 General operating limitations.**

(a) You must operate an amateur rocket in such a manner that it:

- (1) Is launched on a suborbital trajectory;
- (2) When launched, must not cross into the territory of a foreign country unless an agreement is in place between the United States and the country of concern;
- (3) Is unmanned; and
- (4) Does not create a hazard to persons, property, or other aircraft.

(b) The FAA may specify additional operating limitations necessary to ensure that air traffic is not adversely affected, and public safety is not jeopardized.

[Doc. No. FAA–2007–27390, 73 FR 73781, Dec. 4, 2008]

**§ 101.25 Operating limitations for Class 2-High Power Rockets and Class 3-Advanced High Power Rockets.**

When operating *Class 2-High Power Rockets* or *Class 3-Advanced High Power Rockets*, you must comply with the General Operating Limitations of §101.23. In addition, you must not operate *Class 2-High Power Rockets* or *Class 3-Advanced High Power Rockets*—

- (a) At any altitude where clouds or obscuring phenomena of more than five-tenths coverage prevails;
- (b) At any altitude where the horizontal visibility is less than five miles;
- (c) Into any cloud;
- (d) Between sunset and sunrise without prior authorization from the FAA;
- (e) Within 9.26 kilometers (5 nautical miles) of any airport boundary without prior authorization from the FAA;
- (f) In controlled airspace without prior authorization from the FAA;
- (g) Unless you observe the greater of the following separation distances from any person or property that is not associated with the operations:
  - (1) Not less than one-quarter the maximum expected altitude;
  - (2) 457 meters (1,500 ft.);
- (h) Unless a person at least eighteen years old is present, is charged with ensuring the safety of the operation, and has final approval authority for initiating high-power rocket flight; and
- (i) Unless reasonable precautions are provided to report and control a fire caused by rocket activities.

[74 FR 38092, July 31, 2009, as amended by Amdt. 101–8, 74 FR 47435, Sept. 16, 2009]

**§ 101.27 ATC notification for all launches.**

No person may operate an unmanned rocket other than a Class 1—Model Rocket unless that person gives the following information to the FAA ATC facility nearest to the place of intended operation no less than 24 hours before and no more than three days before beginning the operation:

- (a) The name and address of the operator; except when there are multiple participants at a single event, the name and address of the person so designated as the event launch coordinator, whose duties include coordination of the required launch data estimates and coordinating the launch event;
- (b) Date and time the activity will begin;
- (c) Radius of the affected area on the ground in nautical miles;
- (d) Location of the center of the affected area in latitude and longitude coordinates;
- (e) Highest affected altitude;
- (f) Duration of the activity;
- (g) Any other pertinent information requested by the ATC facility.

[Doc. No. FAA–2007–27390, 73 FR 73781, Dec. 4, 2008, as amended at Doc. No. FAA–2007–27390, 74 FR 31843, July 6, 2009]

**§ 101.29 Information requirements.**

(a) *Class 2—High-Power Rockets* . When a Class 2—High-Power Rocket requires a certificate of waiver or authorization, the person planning the operation must provide the information below on each type of rocket to the FAA at least 45 days before the proposed operation. The FAA may request additional information if necessary to ensure the proposed operations can be safely conducted. The information shall include for each type of Class 2 rocket expected to be flown:

- (1) Estimated number of rockets,
- (2) Type of propulsion (liquid or solid), fuel(s) and oxidizer(s),
- (3) Description of the launcher(s) planned to be used, including any airborne platform(s),

- (4) Description of recovery system,
- (5) Highest altitude, above ground level, expected to be reached,
- (6) Launch site latitude, longitude, and elevation, and
- (7) Any additional safety procedures that will be followed.

(b) *Class 3—Advanced High-Power Rockets* . When a Class 3—Advanced High-Power Rocket requires a certificate of waiver or authorization the person planning the operation must provide the information below for each type of rocket to the FAA at least 45 days before the proposed operation. The FAA may request additional information if necessary to ensure the proposed operations can be safely conducted. The information shall include for each type of Class 3 rocket expected to be flown:

- (1) The information requirements of paragraph (a) of this section,
- (2) Maximum possible range,
- (3) The dynamic stability characteristics for the entire flight profile,
- (4) A description of all major rocket systems, including structural, pneumatic, propellant, propulsion, ignition, electrical, avionics, recovery, wind-weighting, flight control, and tracking,
- (5) A description of other support equipment necessary for a safe operation,
- (6) The planned flight profile and sequence of events,
- (7) All nominal impact areas, including those for any spent motors and other discarded hardware, within three standard deviations of the mean impact point,
- (8) Launch commit criteria,
- (9) Countdown procedures, and
- (10) Mishap procedures.

[Doc. No. FAA–2007–27390, 73 FR 73781, Dec. 4, 2008, as amended at Doc. No. FAA–2007–27390, 74 FR 31843, July 6, 2009]