

Canadian Drone Rules Cheat Sheet

Every core limit for Basic and Advanced operations, on one page. Current to the rules in force in 2026.

Weight decides everything

Class	Operating weight	Certificate	Registration
Microdrone	Under 250 g	None	Not required
Small RPA	250 g – 25 kg	Basic or Advanced	Required
Medium RPA	25 – 150 kg	Advanced or higher	Required

Core limits

Limit	Basic	Advanced
Max altitude	122 m (400 ft) AGL — or 30 m above a structure within 61 m of it	Same
Distance from people	More than 30 m horizontally; never overhead	Closer than 30 m and over people with the right declaration (small drone)
From a certified airport	More than 5.6 km (3 NM) from centre	Closer with permission
From a heliport	More than 1.9 km (1 NM) from centre	Closer with permission
Airspace	Uncontrolled airspace only	Controlled airspace with authorization
Visual line of sight	Required at all times	Required; EVLOS with observers since Nov 2025

Always true, both certificates

- Register any drone 250 g or more, and mark it with the registration number before flight.
- Carry your pilot certificate and proof of recency when you fly.
- Stay clear of emergency and advertised-event sites unless specifically authorized.
- Complete a recurrent training activity every 24 months; keep proof for 24 months.
- Yield to crewed aircraft at all times.

What it costs to get it wrong (individuals)

Breach	Maximum fine
Flying without a pilot certificate	\$1,000
Flying where you're not allowed	\$3,000
Endangering aircraft or people	\$3,000
Unregistered or unmarked drone	\$5,000

Corporate fines are five times higher in each category. This is a plain-language summary, not the regulation — verify current requirements at tc.canada.ca. Ready for the Advanced exam? The full study guide and a 50-question practice exam are at dronesview.ca/store.