



**Government of Antigua and Barbuda**  
**Ministry of Public Utilities, Civil Aviation, Transportation and Energy**

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**PRESS RELEASE**

**Civil Aviation Authorities Regulate Operation of Drones**

The Ministry of Public Utilities, Civil Aviation, Energy and Transport acting through the Air Traffic Control authorities, and in collaboration with the Antigua and Barbuda Airport Authority, is issuing guidelines for the operation of drones and model aircraft in Antigua and Barbuda.

The Guidelines come against a background of the rapid technological developments in drone technology and an increasing international concern to ensure that operation of drones and other remote aircraft do not conflict with the safety and security of civil aviation.

The Guidelines prohibit the unauthorized operation of drones and model aircraft within airport approach and departure areas and specifically within two (2) and a half to three (3) miles north and south of the airport runway centerline as well as five (5) miles east and west of the threshold and end of runway. Other areas for which drone and model airplanes are restricted under the new guidelines are airports and sea-ports, hospitals, schools, military and Police facilities, and prisons.

Specific restricted areas are Pigotts, Fitches Creek, Hodges Bay, Cassada Gardens, Hodges Bay, Clare Hall, Potters, Skerritts Pasture, St Johnsons Village, the Antigua

Recreation Grounds, H.M. Prison, Upper Gambles, and North Sound including the Sir Vivian Richards Stadium. Additional restricted areas are Fort James, the St Johns Harbor, and Codrington, Barbuda.

Persons operating drones are expected to maintain a safe distance of at least fifty feet from persons and structures and to operate at heights of less than 300 feet. Persons are also expected to comply with all manufacturer's recommended practices for the safe operation of the Drone. This includes information contained in the Manual provided for the operation of the Drone.

Operation of drones at night and dropping objects to the ground from the drone are also restricted under the Guidelines.

Persons seeking information on operation of drones and for any authorization to operate drones or model aircraft within restricted areas may apply to the Air Traffic Control Department at 268 562 0301 and 268 562 5235.

The Ministry of Public Utilities, Civil Aviation, Energy and Transport is also working with the Ministry of Legal Affairs, the Eastern Caribbean Civil Aviation Authority (ECCAA), and various government agencies on the final stages of comprehensive regulations governing the operation of drones and other remotely piloted aircraft in Antigua and Barbuda.

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