



# CHAPTER 2: BEFORE THE FIRST FLIGHT

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Before you fly, you must ensure your micro or excluded RPA is registered and you hold a valid RPA operator accreditation.

To do these things, you will first need an ARN.

## Aviation Reference Number

An ARN allows CASA to transact with you and provide a service. Think of it as a driver licence number or bank account number.

Your ARN will allow access to the myCASA portal to obtain accreditation or register your RPA. This portal also provides access to other aviation services.

### Types of ARN

**Individual ARNs** are available to eligible people who are not flying for a business or organisation. You will need an individual ARN to access the myCASA portal to register your drone and obtain accreditation. If you are an individual running your own business, we suggest you also apply for an organisation ARN.



*You are generally eligible to hold an ARN if you pass the identity checks.*

**Organisation ARNs** are available to eligible Australian businesses. You will need an organisation ARN to interact with CASA and register drones on behalf of a business or company. An organisation ARN is the only way to allow more than one person to act on behalf of the business in the myCASA portal. You will also need an individual ARN and be authorised to apply on behalf of the business.



*You are generally eligible if your organisation holds an ABN, ACN, ARBN or foreign ID number.*

### How to get an ARN

An ARN application for an individual can be made through the [CASA website](#) and should not take long to complete. The applicant will need to provide CASA with proof of identity. Details of acceptable identity documents are available on the CASA website.

An ARN application for an organisation or business can be made through the CASA website. Before applying for an organisation ARN, the authorised representative of the organisation will need to obtain an individual ARN.

## Accreditation (CASR 101.FA)

When operating a micro or excluded RPA, you must be accredited. If you already hold a RePL, you do not need to obtain RPA operator accreditation. Accreditation is free and is valid for three years.



*There is also the requirement for a person flying a micro RPA to be accredited.*

You can obtain accreditation after viewing a short safety video, reading the educational material, and successfully completing an online quiz to test your knowledge of the standard RPA operating conditions and drone safety rules.

Accreditation can be completed online through the [myCASA portal](#).

### Age limit (CASR 101.374B(4))

- › You must be 16 years or older to become accredited.
- › If you are under 16 years, you may only operate an RPA if supervised by an accredited person who is at least 18 years.

### Proof of accreditation (CASR 101.374C)

If requested by CASA or the police, you must present proof of your valid accreditation or a RePL. Your proof of accreditation can be electronic or printed.



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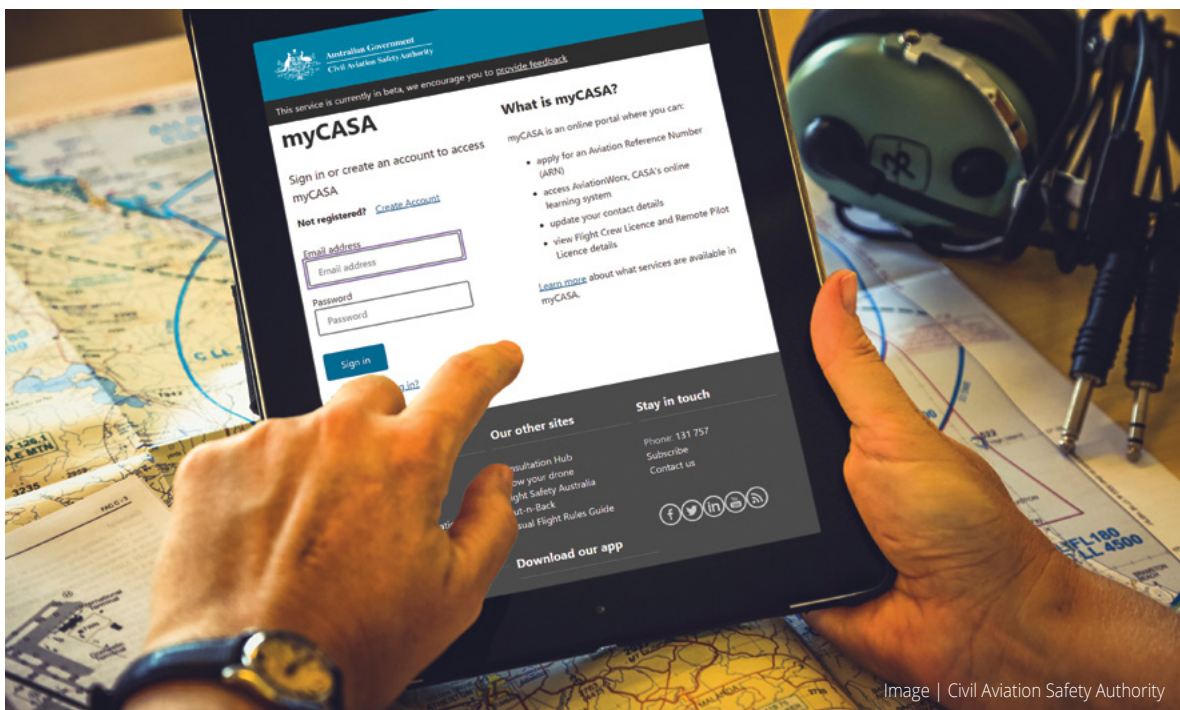


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## RPA registration (CASR 47.C.2)

You need to register your RPA if you fly it for business or as part of your job, even if it is operated indoors.

Some drones don't need to be registered now. This applies if:

- › you don't intend to fly your drone
- › you're only flying for sport or recreation, including model aircraft flown at CASA-approved model airfields
- › you're a commercial drone repairer or manufacturer (but you must keep records – see Divisions 11.1 and 11.2 of the MOS).



*There is a requirement to register your micro RPA.*



*It is an offence to operate an RPA used for commercial purposes that is not registered. The offence may be attributed to the RPA operator and/or the controller. Where the RPA controller is under the age of 16, the offence may be attributed to the RPA operator or supervising adult.*

## Proof of registration (CASR 47.099B)

If requested by CASA or the police, you must provide proof of your RPA registration. This can be an electronic or printed certificate.

## RPA registered in another country (CASR 101.099)

RPA registered outside Australia can be operated in Australian territory, but the RPA details must be recorded with CASA, and permission issued to the operator before the first flight. The controller must also hold an RPA operator accreditation or a RePL.

The process for applying for permission to fly a foreign-registered RPA is similar to registering an Australian RPA. This can be completed through the [myCASA portal](#).

## Notification requirements

(Chapter 10 of the MOS)

By registering your RPA in the commercial category before your first flight, you have notified CASA of your intent to fly. Any changes to your personal details and information must be updated in the myCASA portal no more than 21 days after the change.



*There is no need to notify CASA before you operate a micro RPA.*

## Checklist 2 – Ready for the first flight?

Follow this checklist if you are operating an RPA.

### STEP 1

Have you obtained an ARN?

- Yes** – go to **Step 2**
- No** – apply for an ARN through [myCASA portal](#)



### STEP 2

Have you completed accreditation?

- Yes** – go to **Step 3**
- No** – get accreditation through [myCASA portal](#)

**Note:** if you hold a RePL, you are not required to hold accreditation.



### STEP 3

Have you registered your RPA?

- Yes** – you are ready to operate. Follow the drone safety rules and standard RPA operating conditions. See Chapter 3
- No** – register your RPA through [myCASA portal](#)

