



**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**  
**FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION**  
Aviation Rulemaking Committee Charter

Effective Date: 2/24/2016

**SUBJECT: Performance Standards and Requirements for Micro Unmanned Aircraft  
Systems Aviation Rulemaking Committee**

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- 1. PURPOSE.** This charter establishes the performance standards and requirements for micro unmanned aircraft systems (micro UAS) Aviation Rulemaking Committee (ARC), according to the Administrator's authority under 49 U.S.C. § 106(p)(5). The sponsor of the micro UAS ARC is the Director of the UAS Integration Office (AUS-1). This charter outlines the micro UAS ARC's organization, responsibilities, and tasks.
  
- 2. BACKGROUND.** The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) contemplated a "micro" classification of small UAS (sUAS) in the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) entitled Operation and Certification of Small Unmanned Aircraft Systems (sUAS Operation and Certification Part 107 Rule), which published on February 23, 2015. *See* 80 FR 9544. As discussed in the NPRM, a sUAS would be defined as a micro UAS if it weighed no more than 4.4 pounds (2 kilograms) and was constructed of frangible materials "that break, distort, or yield on impact so as to present a minimal hazard to any person or object." With additional operating restrictions, an operator of a micro UAS would be able to conduct flights over "any person." The FAA invited "commenters to submit data and any other supporting documentation on whether the micro UAS classification should be included in the final rule." After reviewing comments, the FAA has decided not to proceed with a micro UAS classification in the sUAS Operation and Certification Part 107 Rule, and has determined that further engagement with industry and stakeholders is needed before conducting rulemaking to address the regulatory framework for micro UAS.
  
- 3. OBJECTIVES AND TASKS OF THE MICRO UAS ARC.** The micro UAS ARC will provide a forum for discussion and development of recommendations that will be submitted to FAA for consideration in developing an NPRM regarding the classification and operation of micro UAS. The ARC is specifically tasked to consider recommendations for a performance-based standard that would allow for micro UAS to be operated over people who are not directly participating in the operation of the UAS or under a covered structure. Specifically, the micro UAS ARC will:
  - a. Develop recommendations for a performance-based standard for the classification of micro UAS. In developing the recommendation, the micro UAS ARC should consider, at a minimum, current and past research on human injury thresholds, hazard and risk assessment methodologies, and acceptable levels of risk to persons not directly participating in the operation.
  
  - b. Identify means-of-compliance for manufacturers to show that unmanned aircraft meet the performance-based safety requirement. The ARC should evaluate the use of consensus standards as a means of compliance, developing standardized test methods, and other means to demonstrate compliance with the standard. The ARC should also consider and

recommend how the FAA and manufacturers should determine compliance with the performance-based standard.

- c. Recommend operational requirements for micro UAS appropriate to the recommended performance-based safety requirement.
- d. The micro UAS ARC will develop and submit to the FAA a recommendation report by April 1, 2016.

#### **4. MICRO UAS ARC PROCEDURES.**

- a. Act solely in an advisory capacity by advising and providing written recommendations to the Director of the UAS Integration Office.
- b. May propose related follow-on tasks outside the stated scope of the micro UAS ARC to the Director of the UAS Integration Office.
- c. The Industry Co-Chair sends the recommendation report to the Administrator through the Director of the UAS Integration Office, who will also distribute the recommendation report within the Agency.
- d. The Director of the UAS Integration Office determines when the recommendation report and records pursuant to paragraph (8) will be made available for public release.

- 5. MICRO UAS ARC ORGANIZATION, MEMBERSHIP, AND ADMINISTRATION.** The FAA will establish a committee of members representing a diverse set of aviation stakeholders, to include the UAS industry. The FAA will select members based on their familiarity and experience with sUAS designed for aerial data collection and photography with a focus on safety features and miniaturization of the aircraft and sensors. Members will also be selected based on their knowledge and experience with performance-based regulations for operations in the National Airspace System (NAS), manufacture of unmanned aircraft, development of consensus standards, human injury research, and consumer product testing techniques. Membership will be balanced in viewpoints, interests, and knowledge of the committee’s objectives and scope.

The provisions of the August 13, 2014 Office of Management and Budget guidance, “Revised Guidance on Appointment of Lobbyists to Federal Advisory Committees, Boards, and Commissions” (79 FR 47482), continues the ban on registered lobbyists participating on Agency Boards and Commissions if participating in their “individual capacity.” The revised guidance allows registered lobbyists to participate on Agency Boards and Commissions in a “representative capacity” for the “express purpose of providing a committee with the views of a nongovernmental entity, a recognizable group of persons or nongovernmental entities (an industry, sector, labor unions, or environmental groups, etc.) or state or local government.” For further information refer to the OMB guidance at 79 FR 47482.

Membership is limited to promote discussion. Attendance, active participation, and commitment by members are essential for achieving the objectives and tasks.

The micro UAS ARC will consist of members from the attached list of aviation community and industry member organizations, manufacturers, researchers, and standards bodies who have a vested interest in micro UAS. FAA and other Agency subject matter experts may be requested to participate and provide technical support to micro UAS ARC members.

- a. The Director of the UAS Integration Office will function as the FAA Co-Chair and will:
    - 1) Function as the Designated Federal Official
    - 2) Select and appoint industry members and the FAA participants
    - 3) Select an Industry Co-Chair from the membership of the micro UAS ARC
    - 4) Ensure FAA participation and support from all affected Lines of Business
    - 5) Provide notification to the members of the time and place for each meeting
  - b. Once appointed, the Industry Co-Chair will:
    - 1) Coordinate required micro UAS ARC meetings in order to meet the objectives and timelines
    - 2) Establish and distribute meeting agendas in a timely manner
    - 3) Determine the method of keeping meeting notes, if deemed necessary
    - 4) Perform other responsibilities, as required, to ensure the objectives are met
    - 5) Provide status reports, as requested, in writing to the Director of the UAS Integration Office
    - 6) Submit the recommendation report to the Director of the UAS Integration Office in accordance with 4(c)
- 6. COST AND COMPENSATION.** The estimated cost to the Federal Government for the micro UAS ARC is approximately \$2,500. All travel costs for government employees are the responsibility of the government employee's organization. Non-government representatives, including the Industry Co-Chair, serve without government compensation and bear all costs related to their participation on the micro UAS ARC.
- 7. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION.** Meetings are not open to the public. Persons or organizations outside the micro UAS ARC who wish to attend a meeting must get approval in advance of the meeting from the Industry Co-Chair and the FAA Co-Chair.
- 8. AVAILABILITY OF RECORDS.** Consistent with the Freedom of Information Act, Title 5, U.S.C. § 552, records, reports, agendas, working papers, and other documents that are made available to or prepared for or by the micro UAS ARC will be available for public inspection and copying at the FAA UAS Integration Office, 490 L'Enfant Plaza, Suite 7225, Washington, DC, 20024. Fees will be charged for information furnished to the public according to the fee schedule published in Title 49 of the Code of Federal Regulations, part 7.

This charter may be found on the FAA Committee Database website at:  
[http://www.faa.gov/regulations\\_policies/rulemaking/committees/documents/](http://www.faa.gov/regulations_policies/rulemaking/committees/documents/).

**9. DISTRIBUTION.** This charter is distributed to the Director of the UAS Integration Office, the Office of the Associate Administrator for Aviation Safety, the Office of the Chief Counsel, the Office of Aviation Policy and Plans, and the Office of Rulemaking.

**10. EFFECTIVE DATE AND DURATION.** The micro UAS ARC is effective upon issuance of this charter and will remain in existence until April 30, 2016, unless the charter is sooner suspended, terminated, or extended by the Administrator.

Issued in Washington, D.C. on

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Michael P. Huerta', written in a cursive style.

Michael P. Huerta  
Administrator