



# The Drone Pilot's Legal Handbook

*"The ultimate guide to flying within the law and without a worry"*

## WHAT'S INSIDE...

1. **Business structures:** *take-off from solid ground*
2. **Contracts:** *why the fine print matters*
3. **Employment issues:** *keeping you and your pilot's in the clear*
4. **Intellectual property:** *protecting your brand and ideas*
5. **Data, privacy and noise:** *how to fly over these obstacles*
6. **Trouble in the sky:** *flying into (and out of) hot water*
7. **Complex drone operations:** *getting started when you want to get tricky*
8. **Drone registration and pilot accreditation:** *preparing for the future*



*DISCLAIMER: this handbook is an information guide only. It is not legal advice and as such cannot and should not be relied upon. You follow any guidance or tips in this handbook at your own risk. It's also important to note that the law is always changing and the information in this handbook is only current on the day it was written. While much of the information is likely to remain the same, we make no claim as to its accuracy or currency. No part of this handbook may be reproduced, copied, sold or provided to any person or organisation other than the intended recipient without explicit written permission of the author.*

## **Index**

*where are you taking me?*

1. **Business structures:** *take-off from solid ground*
  - 1.1 Sole trader
  - 1.2 Partnership
  - 1.3 Company
  - 1.4 Other
  
2. **Contracts:** *why the fine print matters*
  - 2.1 Why do I need a contract?
  - 2.2 Who do I need to have a contract with?
  - 2.3 Contract tips
  
3. **Employment issues:** *keeping you and your pilot's in the clear*
  - 3.1 Employees / Directors
  - 3.2 Contractors & sub-contractors



4. **Intellectual property:** *protecting your brand and ideas*
  - 4.1 Trade marks
  - 4.2 Copyright
  - 4.3 Other intellectual property
5. **Data, privacy and noise:** *how to fly over these obstacles*
  - 5.1 Privacy
  - 5.2 Data breaches
  - 5.3 Noise
6. **Trouble in the sky:** *flying into (and out of) hot water*
  - 6.1 Strict liability
  - 6.2 CASA Enforcement Manual
7. **Complex drone operations:** *getting started when you want to get tricky*
  - 7.1 Concept of Operations (CONOPS)
  - 7.2 Specific Operations Risk Assessment (SORA)
8. **Drone registration and pilot accreditation:** *preparing for the future*
  - 8.1 When
  - 8.2 What
  - 8.3 Accreditation
  - 8.4 Registration
  - 8.5 Offences
  - 8.6 Drone Registration Flow Chart



# Introduction

*so what's the point of this handbook?*

This handbook is for anyone involved in the drone industry who either wants to start their own business or is generally interested in some of the key legal concepts involved in operating a drone business.

It is intended to be as practical as possible, including key concepts as well as '*Practical Tips*' many of which you can immediately apply to your business.

You may notice that this handbook refers to the more general legal environment around operating drones, rather than going into the *Civil Aviation Act 1988*, *Civil Aviation Safety Regulations 1998* and other aviation specific law. This is for 2 reasons: first, we assume that you acquired a fair understanding of the aviation law during your RePL/ReOC course; second, a handbook on the aviation law would be its own separate beast (we are working on this). Despite this handbook not going into the current aviation law, if you do have any questions in relation to the aviation law, please do get in touch.

Fly free!