

(Translation)

政府總部
運輸及房屋局
運輸科
香港添馬添美道2號
政府總部東翼



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**Transport and
Housing Bureau
Government Secretariat**

Transport Branch
East Wing, Central Government Offices,
2 Tim Mei Avenue,
Tamar, Hong Kong

本局檔號 Our Ref.: THB(T)CR 59/951/08

電話 Tel: (852) 3509 8195

來函檔號 Your Ref.: CB4/SS/8/20

傳真 Fax: (852) 2524 9397

by Email

(Email: hhchan@legco.gov.hk, ssptam@legco.gov.hk, mlmlui@legco.gov.hk)

23 August 2021

Ms Shirley CHAN
Clerk to Subcommittee on Subsidiary Legislation to
Regulate the Operation of Small Unmanned Aircraft,
Legislative Council Complex,
1 Legislative Council Road,
Central, Hong Kong

Dear Ms CHAN,

**Subcommittee on Subsidiary Legislation to
Regulate the Operation of Small Unmanned Aircraft**

The Administration's response

Regarding a public submission to the Subcommittee on Subsidiary Legislation to Regulate the Operation of Small Unmanned Aircraft dated 17 August 2021, the Administration's response is set out below.

In recent years, small unmanned aircraft ("SUA") has been gaining popularity both in Hong Kong and worldwide. The uses of SUA range from recreation and STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) education to professional deployment. To grasp the tremendous potentials in SUA applications in tandem with the evolving technology and innovation while safeguarding aviation and public safety, the Administration sees the need to introduce a customised and forward-looking regime for regulating and supporting SUA operations. The Small Unmanned Aircraft Order ("the Order") is a piece of subsidiary legislation made under the Civil Aviation Ordinance (Cap. 448) which aims to achieve this policy objective.

Under the Order, SUA operations will be regulated under a risk-based approach. Based on the weight of the SUA and the operational risk level, SUA operations of different risk levels will be subject to the corresponding regulatory requirements. These requirements may include operating requirements, registration and labelling, training and assessment, equipment and insurance, etc. For operations involving higher risk, operations shall only be conducted upon prior permission from the Civil Aviation Department (“CAD”).

The Administration appreciates Members’ and the public’s concerns about the safety of SUA operations. With the enactment of the Order, public safety will be further enhanced. CAD will continue to proactively enhance public awareness on safe operation of SUA through different channels like television and radio, CAD’s website, publications, etc, and strengthen the collaboration with different stakeholders such as SUA organisations and manufacturers on safety promotion.

If the Committee has any other questions, please contact this Bureau.

Yours sincerely,

(TE Chi-wang)
for the Secretary for Transport and Housing,

c.c. Civil Aviation Department