



NATIONAL WILDFIRE COORDINATING GROUP

NWCG Briefing Paper

07/06/2020

FROM: Interagency Fire Unmanned Aircraft Systems Subcommittee (UASSC)

SUBJECT: **Cooperator Approval Process to Operate UAS on Federal Incidents**

Cooperators must meet training and aircraft requirements as well as have a current cooperator letter to operate UAS on federal incidents. The requirements for each are listed below.

UAS Pilot Training

Cooperators must take *A-450 Small Unmanned Aircraft System Basic Remote Pilot Course* or have an approved DOI/USFS equivalent course that meets the A-450 objectives. A-450 equivalent courses must be audited by an A-450 Inspector/Lead Instructor to validate curriculum. This course alone does not give the cooperator the ability to operate DOI/USFS aircraft or operate UAS on DOI/USFS incidents.

Once A-450 is completed, [NWCG S-373](#) is required to have the ability to operate as a trainee on federal incidents. Once completed a UASP taskbook will be initiated and successful completion of the taskbook is mandatory.

UAS Aircraft

All UAS used on federal incidents must meet DOI/USFS UAS requirements.

The current approved aircraft for the DOI can be found here: <https://www.doi.gov/aviation/uas/fleet>

Cooperator Letter

A Federal agency cooperator letter is required for both pilots and aircraft for UAS operations on federal incidents.

DOI requests for approval of cooperator/affiliate UAS under the operational control of DOI must follow the process outlined in [351 DM 4](#). UAS Cooperator approval letters will be issued by the OAS UAS Division Chief.

USFS requests in support of Forest Service missions are subject to the approval requirements in [FSM 5713.7](#) and shall meet additional requirements established in the [FSM 5713.43](#). Cooperators shall be approved by letter by the Regional Aviation Officer, in coordination with the National UAS Program Manager.

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