

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) regarding Inspection for Unmanned Aircraft System (UAS) Type Certification and UAS certification by Registered Unmanned Aircraft Inspection Organizations

(As of June 10, 2025)

1 . Questions regarding the UAS Type Certification and UAS certification System

Number	Questions	Answers
1-1	What is UAS certification?	UAS certification is a system to ensure safety by inspecting whether the design, manufacturing process, and current status of an Unmanned Aircraft (UA) comply with Safety Standards regarding its strength, structure, and performance.
1-2	Is UAS certification a different system from UAS registration (are they the same)?	UAS certification is a different system from UAS registration. UAS registration is a system aimed at identifying the owner in the event of an accident and is mandatory for all UAS weighing 100g or more that are flown outdoors in principle. UAS certification is a system that certifies compliance with Safety Standards for UAS that have been registered. (UAS registration is equivalent to car registration, and UAS certification is equivalent to the vehicle inspection certificate). We cannot answer questions regarding UAS registration; please check the <a href="#">Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism (MLIT) website</a> or contact the MLIT UAS Helpdesk at +81-3-5539-0352.
1-3	Is it possible to fly an unmanned aircraft without having obtained UAS certification?	Based on the provisions of the Civil Aeronautics Act, unmanned aircraft are, in principle, prohibited from flying over densely populated areas or areas around airports, or flying at night or beyond visual line of sight (specific flights), except when using an unmanned aircraft that has obtained UAS certification and being piloted by a pilot who holds an unmanned aircraft pilot license. To conduct some specified flights,

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		<p>further permission/approval from the government may be required.</p> <p>However, it is possible to fly even without UAS certification by obtaining permission/approval from the government. (Please check the <a href="#">MLIT website</a> for the system of flights that do not require permission or approval.)</p> <p>For details, we cannot provide answers from ClassNK. Please contact the MLIT UAS Help Desk at +81-3-5539-0352.</p>
1-4	What is the difference between Class I and Class II UAS certification?	<p>Type I UAS certification is for unmanned aircraft conducting specified flights over a third party's airspace (Category III flights), and these inspections are conducted by the government. On the other hand, Class II UAS certification is for unmanned aircraft conducting specified flights (Category II flights) in airspace where measures have been taken to manage access by third parties (airspace other than over a third party's airspace), and these can be inspected not only by the government but also by Registered Inspection Organizations.</p>
1-5	What is Type Certification?	<p>Type Certification is a system for inspecting and certifying whether the design and manufacturing process of a type (model) comply with Safety Standards (appropriateness of strength, structure, and performance) and Uniformity Standards (appropriateness of manufacturing operations, etc.). It is primarily intended for UAS models mass-produced by manufacturers. For UAS of a type that has obtained Type Certification, all or part of the inspections for design, manufacturing process, and current status, which are conducted for each aircraft during UAS certification, are</p>

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		omitted.
1-6	What is the validity period for Type Certification and UAS certification?	The validity period for Type Certification is three years for both Class I and Class II. The validity period for UAS certification is one year for Class I and three years for Class II. Renewal inspection is required to maintain the certification after the validity period expires.
1-7	How can I obtain the documents required for UAS certification applications, such as the UAS Flight Manual and UAS Maintenance Manual?	Documents such as the UAS Flight Manual and UAS Maintenance Manual are managed in their latest versions by manufacturers or others under the supervision of the Japan Civil Aviation Bureau (JCAB). Therefore, please contact the manufacturer or the place where you purchased the aircraft for these documents.
1-8	I have purchased an aircraft from a manufacturer and would like the Type Certificate. How can I obtain it and what is the procedure?	For UAS certification inspection, the inspector confirms whether each aircraft is marked as having obtained Type Certification, based on the provisions of the Civil Aeronautics Act. Therefore, a Type Certificate is not required for UAS certification. The Type Certificate is issued by the MLIT to the manufacturer or other party. Please contact the MLIT or the manufacturer for the Type Certificate.

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2. Questions regarding inspection for UAS Type Certification

Number	Questions	Answers
2-1	What types of inspections for Type Certification are handled by ClassNK?	ClassNK is approved by the government to conduct inspections for Class II Type Certification. Inspections for Class I Type Certification are conducted by the government.
2-2	How can I undergo an inspection for Class II Type Certification at ClassNK?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. If you wish to undergo an inspection for Class II Type Certification at ClassNK, it is recommended that you make preliminary arrangements with ClassNK regarding the inspection schedule and cost estimate prior to application.</li> <li>2. Submit a Type Certification application to the MLIT through the Drone/UAS Information Platform System (DIPS2.0), indicating your wish to be inspected by ClassNK. Upon receiving this, the MLIT will request ClassNK to perform the inspection.</li> <li>3. The inspection will commence upon submission of the Inspection Application Form to ClassNK, agreeing to the Terms and Conditions of Class II UAS Type Certificate Inspection by NIPPON KAIJI KYOKAI, and payment of the basic fee.</li> </ol>
2-3	What is the inspection fee for Class II Type Certification at ClassNK?	The specific inspection fee varies depending on the inspection content and number of inspections required, which differ based on the design and manufacturing process of the UAS type and the methods for demonstrating compliance with the standards. Please consult with ClassNK in advance for a concrete estimate. Note that the fee

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		<p>may differ from the fee charged when the government conducts the inspection. Additional inspection fees may be required if more inspections are necessary than initially anticipated.</p>
<p>2-4</p>	<p>What is the content of the inspection for Class II Type Certification at ClassNK?</p>	<p>The inspection will determine whether the design and manufacturing process of the UAS type comply with the Safety Standards and Uniformity Standards. The general flow is as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Design Inspection: Inspect the design through document review (drawings, analysis) and practical inspection (test witnessing, etc.).</li> <li>2. Manufacturing Process Inspection: Inspect whether the process and quality control system can manufacture products according to the design, through document review and practical inspection.</li> <li>3. Current Status Inspection: Inspect one aircraft to confirm that it has been properly manufactured and realized according to the design and manufacturing process. For detailed inspection content, please refer to the MLIT circulars "The Inspection Manual of Safety and Uniformity Standards for UAS Type Certificate, etc." and "Procedures for Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) Type Certificate, etc." as well as the MLIT guideline "Guidelines for obtaining Unmanned Aircraft System (UAS) Type</li> </ol>

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		Certificate, etc.". Those documents are available on the <a href="#">MLIT website</a> .
2-5	What documents are required for inspection for Class II Type Certification?	<p>Based on aviation laws and regulations, the following documents are required for a Type Certification application:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>① Design Plan</li> <li>② Design Documents</li> <li>③ Drawing List</li> <li>④ Design Drawings</li> <li>⑤ Parts List</li> <li>⑥ Manufacturing Plan</li> <li>⑦ Document certifying that the uniformity of the type is ensured.</li> <li>⑧ Specifications</li> <li>⑨ UAS Flight Manual</li> <li>⑩ UAS Maintenance Manual (ICA)</li> <li>⑪ Document describing matters necessary for calculating the weight and center of gravity of the Unmanned Aircraft</li> <li>⑫ Other documents containing reference information (such as the management plan to ensure safety).</li> </ul> <p>In addition to these, documents required to demonstrate compliance with Safety Standards and Uniformity Standards are necessary, such as analysis reports, test plans, test reports, and Manufacture Management Guidelines. Examples of</p>

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		descriptions for documents ① to ⑫ and some test plans are available on the <a href="#">MLIT website</a> .
2-6	What are the Safety Standards and Uniformity Standards for Class II Type Certification?	The Safety Standards and Uniformity Standards that must be complied with for Class II Type Certification inspection are outlined in the MLIT circular "The Inspection Manual of Safety and Uniformity Standards for Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) Type Certificate, etc." This document is available on the <a href="#">MLIT website</a> .
2-7	How long does an inspection for Class II Type Certification at ClassNK take?	The duration varies depending on the inspection content and number of inspections required, which differ based on the design and manufacturing process of the UAS type and the methods for demonstrating compliance with the standards. Please consult with ClassNK in advance. Note that the duration may be longer if more inspections are necessary than initially anticipated.
2-8	How should I proceed if I need to change the design or manufacturing process of a UAS model that has obtained Class II Type Certification?	If you intend to change part of the design or manufacturing process of a UAS model that has obtained Type Certification, you must obtain approval from the MLIT. You will undergo inspection by the government or a Registered Inspection Organization. The inspection procedure is similar to that for initial Type Certification.
2-9	How can I renew a Class II Type Certification?	The validity period for Class II Type Certification is three years. To continue the certification thereafter, a renewal inspection by the government or a Registered Inspection Organization is required. The inspection procedure is similar to that for initial Type Certification.
2-10	Can I undergo inspection for Type	Yes, inspection for Type Certification can be conducted for foreign-made UAS. In this

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	Certification for foreign-made UAS?	case, the foreign manufacturer (or a person delegated by the foreign manufacturer) will conduct the application and inspection procedures.
2-11	How should I proceed with the DIPS2.0 procedures for applying for inspection for Type Certification?	We cannot answer questions regarding the DIPS2.0 procedures, as these are national system procedures. Please contact the MLIT UAS Helpdesk at +81-3-5539-0352.

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3. Questions regarding inspection for UAS certification

Number	Questions	Answers
3-1	What types of inspections for UAS certification are handled by ClassNK?	<p>ClassNK is approved by the government to conduct inspections for Class II UAS certification for UAS of a type that has obtained Type Certification. These inspections primarily involve document inspections for unmanned aircraft that have been manufactured and maintained/inspected by the type-certified manufacturer, etc.</p> <p>Specifically, for inspections aiming to newly obtain Class II UAS certification (New Inspection), the targets are unmanned aircraft of a type that has obtained type certification, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>① Those that have not been used for aviation (new aircraft).</li> <li>② Those that have been used for aviation (used aircraft), provided they have been maintained/inspected by the manufacturer, etc. (an Inspection Pass Certificate, etc. from the manufacturer, etc. is required).</li> </ul> <p>Furthermore, Renewal Inspections for Class II UAS certification can also be performed for unmanned aircraft that have been maintained/inspected by the manufacturer, etc.</p>
3-2	How can I apply for inspection for Class II UAS certification with ClassNK?	<p>ClassNK is permitted by the government to conduct inspections for Class II UAS certification for unmanned aircraft of a type that has obtained type certification.</p> <p>When you apply for UAS certification to the MLIT, please select ClassNK as the desired</p>

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		inspection organization. If you wish to obtain UAS certification for an unmanned aircraft of a type that has not obtained type certification, please contact the MLIT (JCAB).
3-3	What are the inspection fees for Class II UAS certification at ClassNK?	ClassNK is approved by the government to conduct inspections for Class II UAS certification of UAS of a type that has obtained Type Certification. The inspection fees are: ¥2,800 for new (newly manufactured) aircraft and ¥7,400 for renewal and new (used) aircraft (excluding tax).
3-4	How can I determine if a UAS has obtained Type Certification?	Type Certification is ultimately granted by the government, even if the inspection is conducted by a Registered Inspection Organization. You can check the <a href="#">MLIT website</a> for information on certified types. Furthermore, for UAS of a type that has obtained Type Certification, manufacturers and others are obliged by the provisions of the Civil Aeronautics Act to affix a Type Certification marking to each individual UAS. Therefore, you can also determine this by the presence or absence of this marking.
3-5	How should I proceed with the procedures on the Drone/UAS Information Platform System (DIPS2.0) when considering applying for UAS certification inspection?	Regarding procedures on the state's system, we cannot provide answers from ClassNK. Please contact the MLIT UAS Help Desk at +81-3-5539-0352.
3-6	Are there any conditions or	ClassNK is permitted by the MLIT(JCAB) to conduct inspections for Class II UAS

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	restrictions for applying inspection for Class II UAS certification at ClassNK?	certification only for UAS of a type that has obtained Type Certification. If you wish to obtain UAS certification for a type of UAS that has not obtained Type Certification, please contact the MLIT(JCAB).
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4. Other Questions

Number	Questions	Answers
4-1	Can you provide information on regulations regarding UAS flight and procedures for flight permits / approvals?	We cannot answer questions regarding UAS flight regulations or procedures for flight permits/approvals. Please check the <a href="#">MLIT website</a> or contact the MLIT UAS Helpdesk at +81-3-5539-0352.
4-2	How should I proceed with the DIPS2.0 procedures?	We cannot answer questions regarding the DIPS2.0 procedures, as these are national system procedures. Please contact the MLIT UAS Helpdesk at +81-3-5539-0352.
4-3	Can you provide information on the UAS Pilot License examination?	For information regarding the UAS Pilot License examination, please refer to the <a href="#">UAS Pilot License Examination website of ClassNK</a> (Japanese Only) or contact the UAS Pilot License Examination Organization’s Helpdesk at +81-50-6861-9700.