

FAA Kite Regulations

USA RULES FOR KITE FLYING

Part 101 -- Moored Balloons, Kites, Unmanned Rockets, and Unmanned Free Balloons.

Subpart A -- General

S101.1 Applicability

(a) This Part prescribes rules governing the operation, in the United States, of the following:

(1) Except as provided for in S101.7 of this Part, any balloon that is moored to the surface of the earth or an object thereon and that has a diameter of more than 6 feet or a gas capacity of more than 115 cubic feet.

(2) Except as provided for in S101.7 of this Part, any kite that weighs more than 5 pounds and is intended to be flown at the end of a rope or cable.

(3) Any unmanned rocket except --

(i) Aerial firework displays; and

(ii) Model rockets --

(a) Using not more than 4 ounces of propellant;

(b) Using a slow-burning propellant;

(c) Made of paper, wood, or breakable plastic, containing no substantial metal parts, and weighing not more than 16 ounces, including the propellant; and

(d) Operated in a manner that does not create a hazard to persons, property, or other aircraft.

(4) Except as provided for in S101.7 of this Part, any unmanned free balloon that --

(i) Carries a payload package that weighs more than four pounds and has a weight/size ratio of more than three ounces per square inch on any surface of the package, determined by dividing the total weight in ounces of the payload package by the area in square inches of its smallest surface;

(ii) Carries a payload package that weighs more than 6 pounds;

(iii) Carries a payload, of two or more packages, that weighs more than 12 pounds; or

(iv) Uses a rope or other device for suspension of the payload that requires an impact force of more than 50 pounds to separate the suspended payload from the balloon.

(b) For the purposes of this Part, a "gyroglider" attached to a vehicle on the surface of the earth is considered to be a kite.

S101.3 Waivers

No person may conduct operations that require a deviation from this Part except under a certificate of waiver issued by the Administrator.

S101.5 Operations in prohibited or restricted areas.

No person may operate a moored balloon, kite, unmanned rocket, or unmanned free balloon in a prohibited or restricted area unless he has permission from the using or controlling agency, as appropriate.

S101.7 Hazardous operations.

(a) No person may operate any moored balloon, kite, unmanned rocket, or unmanned free balloon in a manner that creates a hazard to other persons, or their property.

(b) No person operating any moored balloon, kite, unmanned rocket, or unmanned free balloon may allow an Object to be dropped there from, if such action creates a hazard to other persons or their property.

Subpart B -- Moored Balloons and Kites

S101.11 Applicability

This subpart applies to the operation of moored balloons and kites. However, a person operating a moored balloon or kite within a restricted area must comply only with S101.19 and with additional limitations imposed by the using or controlling agency, as appropriate.

S101.13 Operating limitations.

(a) Except as provided in paragraph (b) of this section, no person may operate a moored balloon or kite --

- (1) Less than 500 feet from the base of any cloud;
- (2) More than 500 feet above the surface of the earth;
- (3) From an area where the ground visibility is less than 3 miles; or
- (4) Within five miles of the boundary of any airport.

(b) Paragraph (a) of this section does not apply to the operation of a balloon or kite below the top of any structure and within 250 feet of it, if that shielded operation does not obscure any lighting on the structure.

S101.15 Notice requirements.

No person may operate an unshielded moored balloon or kite more than 150 feet above the surface of the earth unless, at least 24 hours before beginning the operation, he give the following information to the FAA ATC facility that is nearest to the place of intended operation:

- (a) The names and addresses of the owners and operators.
- (b) The size of the balloon or the size and weight of the kite.
- (c) The location of the operation.
- (d) The height above the surface of the earth at which the balloon or kite is to be operated.
- (e) The date, time, and duration of the operation.

S101.17 Lighting and marking requirements.

(a) No person may operate a moored balloon or kite between sunset and sunrise unless the balloon or kite, and its mooring lines, are lighted so as to give a visual warning equal to that required for obstructions to air navigation in the FAA publication "Obstruction Marking and Lighting."

(b) No person may operate a moored balloon or kite between sunrise and sunset unless its mooring lines have coloured pennants or streamers attached at not more than 50-foot intervals beginning at 150 feet above the surface of the earth and visible for at least one mile.

UK RULES FOR KITE FLYING

Currently, civil aviation legislation applicable to kite flying is contained in the Air Navigation Order 1989 (Statutory instrument No 1989/2004) and the Rules of the Air Regulations 1991 (Statutory Instrument No 1991/243 7).

The constraints contained in the Air Navigation Order 1989, and the Rules of the Air Regulations 1991 with regard to the flying of kites (Kites ate classified as "aircraft" in Schedule 1 of the Order) are as follows:-

If the kites are more than 2kg in weight, then:-

Article 75(1) of the Order requires that, if the kites are to be flown above 60 metres above ground level, within 60 metres of any vessel, vehicle or structure, or within 5 kilometres of an aerodrome at any height, then written permission is necessary from the Civil Aviation Authority and if granted its validity will be subject to certain conditions which will be included in the Permission.

Article 50 of the Order requires that a person shall not recklessly or negligently act in a manner likely to endanger an aircraft, or any person therein.

Article 51 of the Order requires that a person shall not recklessly or negligently cause or permit an aircraft to endanger any person or property.

Article 69 of the Order gives effect to the Rules of the Air Regulations 1991. Rule 14 of these Rules applies to kites and describes the marking attachments required by day or night when kites are to

be flown above 60 metres above ground level.

Rule 14 of the Rule of the Air;

A kite, while flying by day, at a height exceeding 60 metres above the surface shall have attached to its mooring cable either:

(a) at intervals of not more than 220 metres measured from the lowest part of the kite, tubular streamers not less than 40 centimetres in diameter and 2 metres in length, and marked with alternate bands of red and white 50 centimetres wide;

or

(b) at intervals of not more than 100 metres measured from the lowest part of the kite, streamers not less than 80 centimetres long and 30 centimetres wide at their widest point and marked with alternate bands of red and white 10 centimetres wide.

A kite while flying at night at a height exceeding, 60 metres above the surface shall display lights as follows:

(a) a group of two steady lights consisting of a white light placed 4 metres above a red light, both being of at least five candela and showing in all directions, the white light being placed not less than 5 metres or more than 10 metres below the lowest part of the kite;

(b) on the mooring cable, at intervals of not more than 300 metres measured from the group of lights referred to in sub-paragraph (a), groups of two lights of the colour and power and in relative positions specified in that sub-paragraph, and, if the lowest group of lights is obscured by cloud, an additional group below the cloud base; and

(c) on the surface, a group of three flashing lights arranged in a horizontal plane at the apexes of a triangle, approximately equilateral, each side of which measures at least 25 metres; one side of the triangle shall be delimited by two red lights; the third light shall be a green light so placed that the triangle encloses the object on the surface to which the kite is moored.

If the kites are not more than 2kg in weight, then: In accordance with Article 109 of the Order, only Articles 75 and 51 as described above, apply.

KITES AND ADVERTISING

It should be noted that aerial advertising may not take place from kites; the Civil Aviation Act 1982 and the Civil Aviation (Aerial Advertising) Regulation 1983 (Statutory Instrument No 1885) refer. Responsibility for aerial advertising is vested with the Civil Aviation Policy Division of the Department of Transport (not the CAA) and any queries regarding aerial advertising should be addressed to them.