

How to Earn Your FAA Part 107 Drone License

A Guide for Future Utility and DSP Pilots

If you're preparing to operate drones commercially for a **Drone Service Provider (DSP)** or **utility company**, the first step toward getting in the air is earning your **FAA Part 107 Remote Pilot Certificate**.

This certification is your key to flying for business... whether you're inspecting transmission lines, mapping substations, or capturing aerial data for infrastructure projects. And while it might sound like a lot, the process is straightforward if you follow the right order — starting with one crucial tip: **schedule your test early**.

Step 1: Get Your FAA Tracking Number (FTN)

Before you can schedule anything, you'll need your official FAA ID; the **FAA Tracking Number (FTN)**.

Go to [IACRA](#), create an account, select "Applicant," and finish registration. Your FTN will be issued automatically. Keep this number safe; you'll need it for scheduling your test and later when applying for your license.

Step 2: Schedule Your FAA Knowledge Test

Once you have your FTN, go ahead and **book your test date**. Test slots can sometimes be several weeks out, so it's best to reserve your spot early and use that time to prepare.

Visit [PSI Exams](#) and choose "**Unmanned Aircraft General – Small (UAG)**" from the test list.

- **Cost:** about \$175
- **Duration:** 2 hours
- **Format:** 60 multiple-choice questions
- **Passing score:** 70%
- **Bring:** your government-issued ID and FTN

Once you've scheduled your exam, you'll know exactly how much time you have to study — and a firm deadline helps keep you on track.

Step 3: Study and Prepare for the Exam

Now that your test date is set, it's time to hit the books (and maybe a few YouTube videos). The FAA's **Remote Pilot – Small UAS Study Guide** is the official go-to resource, covering everything from:

- Airspace and flight restrictions
- Weather patterns and performance effects
- Regulations, safety, and operations

Many pilots preparing for DSP or utility work also turn to structured online courses for deeper prep and practice tests. Programs like **Pilot Institute**, **Drone Launch Academy**, or **Udemy** offer excellent support.

Start with this video: [How to Get Your Part 107 License \(Step-by-Step\)](#)

Additional video resources: [1](#) | [2](#) | [3](#) | [4](#)

When test day arrives, bring your FTN and ID, take a deep breath, and remember — you've got this.

Step 4: Apply for Your Remote Pilot Certificate

After you pass, you'll receive an **Airman Knowledge Test Report (AKTR)**; hold onto it. Then, log back into [IACRA](#) and start your **Remote Pilot Application**.

Enter your test ID from the AKTR, sign electronically, and submit. The FAA will complete a **TSA background check**, and once cleared, you'll receive your **temporary certificate via email**...meaning you can start flying commercially almost immediately.

Your **permanent plastic license** will arrive in the mail a few weeks later.

Step 5: Stay Current and Keep Flying



Your certification stays valid for **24 months**, after which renewal is quick and free. Just take the [Part 107 Small UAS Recurrent Training \(ALC-677\)](#) course on the FAA Safety website — no testing required.

Final Thoughts

Earning your Part 107 license is more than a checkbox, it's your entry into the professional drone world. For DSP and utility pilots, it represents safety, precision, and reliability.

By scheduling your test early, studying smart, and staying current, you'll be ready to take on missions that keep infrastructure connected and communities powered.

The future of drone operations in the utility sector is bright — and it starts with certified pilots like you.