

Aviation Law

A practical overview of **aviation law in the UAE**: regulatory approvals, aircraft transactions, safety compliance, and drones.

CORE AREAS

REGULATION

Civil aviation in the UAE is regulated federally by the General Civil Aviation Authority. Aviation businesses, operators, aircraft owners, pilots, maintenance providers, and service companies may require approvals or registrations.

AIRCRAFT TRANSACTIONS

Aircraft purchases, leases, financing, registration, deregistration, insurance, and maintenance records require careful documentation. Aviation transactions often involve high-value assets and cross-border parties.

SAFETY & OPERATIONS

Aviation compliance focuses on safety, security, airworthiness, flight operations, crew licensing, maintenance, airport access, incident reporting, and airspace rules. Operators must comply with technical approvals.

DRONES

Drone activities are separately regulated in the UAE. Depending on the activity, users may need registration, permits, operational approvals, location clearances, and compliance with safety, privacy, and security requirements.

KEY CONCEPTS

REGULATORY COMPLIANCE

Aviation matters often involve more than one authority. Depending on the issue, approvals may be needed from the GCAA, airport authorities, free zones, customs, insurers, financiers, or local aviation-related bodies.

DOCUMENTATION

- Keep aircraft ownership, lease, and finance records updated.
- Maintain airworthiness, maintenance, and insurance records.
- Confirm permits before drone or aviation-related operations.
- Review contracts carefully for liability, jurisdiction, and enforcement.

