



LOS ALAMOS

where discoveries are made

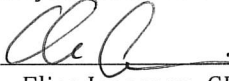
County of Los Alamos

Building Safety Division

Policy: Use of Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS)

Effective Date: July 12, 2018

Approved By: Michael Arellano (July 12, 2018)

Revised:  8/14/2025
Elias Isaacson, CDD Director Date

1. Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to ensure that the County of Los Alamos complies with all applicable federal, state, and local laws regarding the operation of Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) by County Building Inspectors. The UAS shall be used exclusively by the Building Safety Division for conducting roof inspections.

2. Eligibility

Only County Building Inspectors who are employees of Los Alamos County and possess a current Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Remote Pilot Certificate under Part 107 are authorized to operate a UAS.

3. Scheduling Procedures

- All UAS inspections must be scheduled by the contractor or homeowner.
- Written approval from the homeowner is required prior to any UAS operation.
- If the inspection site is within a five-mile radius of an airport, the UAS operator must contact the airport prior to flight.

4. Guidelines for Operation

- UAS shall never be flown on Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) property.

- Flights must remain on premises where written consent has been obtained from all legal property interest holders.
- The UAS must remain within 400 feet of the operator.
- Aircraft must not exceed 400 feet above ground level or 10 feet above the inspected structure, whichever is lower.
- Reasonable efforts must be made to avoid capturing images or video of adjacent private property, especially enclosed areas (e.g., backyards, fenced areas) without owner permission.
- UAS shall not be flown over any group or gathering of people.
- Flights must not occur during adverse weather conditions. UAS shall not be operated if sustained wind speeds exceed 10 MPH.
- Only trained, FAA-licensed County personnel may operate the UAS.
- Operators must wear a County uniform or visible County identification to clearly indicate their official status.
- A flight log must be maintained and include the date, time, and operator of each UAS flight.

5. Compliance

Failure to adhere to this policy may result in disciplinary action and/or revocation of UAS operation privileges. This policy is subject to review and revision as needed to remain compliant with FAA regulations and County objectives.

Contact: David Martinez, Chief Building Official