



REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FERTILIZER AND PESTICIDE AUTHORITY

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Memorandum Circular No. 28
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TO: ALL CONCERNED

FROM: The Executive Director

SUBJECT: Good Agricultural Practices for Remotely Piloted Aircraft System (RPAS) for Use as Spraying

In line with the Fertilizer and Pesticide Authority's (FPA) mandate as provided in Presidential Decree (PD) No. 1144, the FPA is tasked to protect the public from the improper pesticide usage which presents serious risks to users, handlers and the public in general due to the inherent toxicity of these compounds which are, moreover, potential environmental contaminants.

Furthermore, pursuant to Section 6, Part III, Paragraphs 1 and 2 of P.D. 1144, the FPA has the authority to determine specific uses or manner of use for each pesticide or pesticide formulation and to establish and enforce tolerance levels and good agricultural practices for use of pesticides in raw agricultural commodities.

In view thereof, the following rules and regulations governing spraying through the use of Remotely Piloted Aircraft System (RPAS) or otherwise known as drones for agricultural purposes are hereby promulgated:

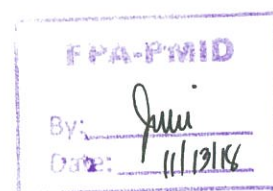
I. COVERAGE

All drone controllers, operators, service providers, staff, pesticide companies and other individuals or firms who are involved in activities concerning drone spraying of pesticide for the control of pests, diseases and weeds; and the application of liquid fertilizer.

II. DRONE APPLICATION OF PESTICIDE

1. Safety Procedures in Pesticide Sprayings

- a. All drones intended for pesticide application should have Global Positioning System (GPS) equipment and other equipment including target flow controllers and flow meters.



- b. The drone operator must operate the unit in accordance with the operations manual.
- c. Flying altitude of drone sprayers is recommended to be 1 to 3 meters above the crop canopy.
- d. It should be observed that the spray drift doesn't injure the neighboring crops outside the target area.
- e. There should be no spraying; when there is an upward air movement or where the temperature inversion prevents the spray cloud settling within the treated area.
- f. Signage should be installed in strategic points to warn the public and surrounding community of spraying schedules.

2. Safety in Handling of Pesticide

- a. Pesticide to be used for drone spray application should be secured during transport.
- b. Emergency and first aid equipment should be available with the drone service provider and/or controller during pesticide application.
- c. Handling, mixing, loading and application of pesticide should be in accordance with the pesticide label instruction.
- d. Absorbent materials (sawdust or fine sand) should be available for containing leaks and spills. Clean water should be available at all times.

3. Pesticide Safety – Post Application

- a. Spray equipment must be washed thoroughly inside and out and, triple rinsed in a concrete wash area. Rinse liquid must be contained in a secured vessel for proper hazardous waste disposal. Likewise, materials used to contain leaks and/or spills should be properly disposed of as hazardous waste.
- b. Used Personal Protective Equipments (PPEs) should be thoroughly washed at the station's laundry area and must not be taken home after every use.
- c. A Drone Spray Final Report (DSFR) should be accomplished within 48 hours after spraying and kept for a period of two (2) years by the drone operator. DSFR information must include the following:
 - i. Application date and time
 - ii. Name of farmer / farm owner
 - iii. Field size and location using GPS coordinates
 - iv. Total area sprayed

- v. Crop sprayed and target pest/s
- vi. Wind speed at the time of spraying
- vii. Pesticide used information: Brand name, Active Ingredient, Company/Registrant
- viii. Total volume of product used, dose and rate of application
- ix. Tank-mix information, if any
- x. Information on controller who undertook the spraying
- xi. Drone type and CAAP registration number
- xii. PPE used

III. QUALIFICATION, TRAINING AND ACCREDITATION

1. Drone Spraying Operator Company requirements to get License to Operate

a. Company requirements to get License to Operate

b. Drone Controller

- i. License to Operate Commercially from CAAP
- ii. FPA accreditation as a Certified Pesticide Applicator (CPA)
- iii. Competence and knowledge in the use of pesticide as follows:

Appropriateness of pesticide formulation to be applied
 Correct dose/rate and manner of application
 Awareness of hazards in the use of product
 First aid procedure

c. Spray Operation Crew

- i. Knowledgeable and should be fully conversant with drone operation.
- ii. Should have undergone training in safety on pesticide handling and the use of PPEs. Should attend annual training/upgrading program coordinated with the FPA.
- iii. Spray crew supervisors should be accredited by the FPA as a CPA or as an ARCO; accreditation should be valid and updated.
- iv. Should have knowledge and be fully conversant with procedures in case of pesticide exposure.

IV. CHOICE, STORAGE AND CONDITION OF PESTICIDE

1. Only FPA-registered pesticides for Drone Application should be used, a copy of the Safety Data Sheet (SDS) should be available in the spray site.
2. Products should be properly labelled and be transported and stored in its original container and package.
3. Containers should be regularly checked for leak and damage.

4. Only pesticides that will be used within the day's operation should be loaded in to the transport vehicle.
5. Triple rinsed empty containers should be disposed of in FPA-authorized collection sites.

V. SAFETY, HEALTH AND APPROPRIATE EQUIPMENT

1. All personnel involved in pesticide handling and spray operation should undergo regular health check to include annual physical examinations.
2. Appropriate PPEs should be worn at all times during spraying operations.
3. Personal hygiene should be observed. Thorough washing with soap and water should be done after every pesticide application work.
4. Annual safety seminar on handling of pesticide should be conducted in coordination with pesticide supplier.

VI. GENERAL PROVISIONS:

When exigency requires, FPA will issue amendments and modifications to this Memorandum.

VI. EFFECTIVITY

This Memorandum shall take effect immediately and will remain enforced unless sooner revoked and or modified accordingly.

For strict compliance.


WILFREDO C. ROLDAN
Executive Director

October 30, 2018