



**SMALL UAV  
COALITION**  
*A Partnership for  
Safety & Innovation*

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **Coalition Comments on UAS Registry Announcement**

**WASHINGTON, DC – DECEMBER 14, 2015** – The Small UAV Coalition applauds the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) for working with industry to promote safety and accountability and creating a simple, web-based registration system for unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs). However, the Small UAV Coalition is concerned that certain aspects of the system will hinder widespread compliance and therefore detract from the safety and accountability mission.

In particular, the UAS Registration Task Force recommended that there be no fee associated with registration as a means of boosting compliance, and therefore, safety. The \$5 fee to cover administrative costs may prevent users from registering for both convenience and cost, especially in the case of small toy-like UAVs.

The Coalition also takes issue with the 250 gram weight threshold for registration. A weight threshold for 1 kilogram is consistent with other countries and a reasonable threshold well below the suggested weight limit for micro UAVs, which pose the least risk to persons on the ground. While the requirement is consistent with the Task Force recommendation, representatives from the small UAV industry agreed to the threshold as part of the larger set of recommendations in an effort to reach consensus. Paired with a registration fee and other deviations from the Final Report, including a requirement for the registrant to provide an email address, the 250 gram threshold is unacceptable.

In addition, the Coalition would like the FAA to include a provision to preempt state and local small UAS registration requirements. Duplicative registries and regulations will be confusing and another deterrent to participation in a single FAA-sponsored system.

While the Coalition shares the FAA's goals of compliance and safety and supports an effort to implement an easy, electronic registration system for UAVs, it objects to the FAA requirements for registration announced this morning, which deviate from the Task Force's recommendations for a simple, free, and consumer-friendly process. That said, the Coalition wishes to commend the Secretary of Transportation and FAA Administrator for convening a task force to make recommendations and for ensuring the task force represented a fair cross-section of the small UAS industry. The Coalition urges the Secretary and Administrator to utilize similar industry-inclusive task forces or working groups as it considers the regulatory framework outside of the sUAS rulemaking, such as to address operations beyond the visual line of sight, traffic management, and flights over persons not involved in the operation.

For more information on the Small UAV Coalition, please visit [www.smalluavcoalition.org](http://www.smalluavcoalition.org), contact [press@smalluavcoalition.org](mailto:press@smalluavcoalition.org), or follow @smallUAVs on Twitter.

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