

**Law No. (7) of 2015**  
**Concerning**  
**Airspace Safety and Security in the Emirate of Dubai<sup>1</sup>**

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**We, Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Ruler of Dubai,**

After perusal of:

Federal Law No. (3) of 1987 Issuing the Penal Code and its amendments;

Federal Law No. (20) of 1991 Issuing the Civil Aviation Law;

Federal Law No. (4) of 1996 Establishing the General Civil Aviation Authority and its amendments;

Law No. (3) of 2003 Establishing the Executive Council of the Emirate of Dubai;

Law No. (35) of 2009 Concerning Management of the Public Funds of the Government of Dubai and its amendments;

Law No. (19) of 2010 Concerning the Dubai Civil Aviation Authority;

Law No. (13) of 2011 Regulating the Conduct of Economic Activities in the Emirate of Dubai;

Local Order No. (30) of 1986 Concerning Control of Advertisements in the Emirate of Dubai and its Implementing Bylaw;

Local Order No. (2) of 1999 Classifying and Regulating Land Use in the Emirate of Dubai and its amendments; and

Local Order No. (3) of 1999 Regulating Construction Works in the Emirate of Dubai and its amendments,

**Do hereby issue this Law.**

**Title of the Law**  
**Article (1)**

This Law will be cited as “Law No. (7) of 2015 Concerning Airspace Safety and Security in the Emirate of Dubai”.

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*<sup>1</sup>Every effort has been made to produce an accurate and complete English version of this legislation. However, for the purpose of its interpretation and application, reference must be made to the original Arabic text. In case of conflict the Arabic text will prevail.*

## **Definitions**

### **Article (2)**

The following words and expressions, wherever mentioned in this Law, will have the meaning indicated opposite each of them unless the context implies otherwise:

UAE:	The United Arab Emirates.
Emirate:	The Emirate of Dubai.
Executive Council:	The Executive Council of the Emirate of Dubai.
DM:	The Dubai Municipality.
DCAA:	The Dubai Civil Aviation Authority.
Director General:	The director general of the DCAA.
Airspace:	The portion of the atmosphere extending vertically and horizontally above the territory of the Emirate.
Airspace Safety:	The procedures taken by the DCAA to ensure Airspace safety in accordance with the relevant recognised international standards.
Air Route:	The air route taken by an aircraft from taking off to landing on the runway.
Heliport:	A demarcated area whose coordinates are defined through signs, whether located on the ground or installed on top of buildings, on marine platforms, or on ships, which is designated for the safe landing and take-off of helicopters, and which meets all standards of the International Civil Aviation Organisation.
Warning Light:	Lights and light systems installed on Towers and Facilities for the purpose of warning aircraft in accordance with the relevant recognised international standards.
Airport:	A demarcated area on the ground, on a rooftop, or on a water body, including the buildings, equipment, and Facilities wholly or partly designated for aircraft landing, take-off, or taxiing.
Towers:	Poles, aerials, and similar structures used in telecommunication and microwave systems.
Facilities:	Buildings, cranes, signboards, and their appurtenances which cause height increase within the Airspace.

Profession:	Any civil aviation-related activity conducted by a natural or legal person, including but not limited to training, preparation of air safety studies, tourist and recreational aviation, sports aviation, providing Aerial Advertisements, flying balloons, conducting advertising flights, aerial insecticide spraying, and similar activities.
Navigation Easement:	Any restriction imposed on real property adjacent to Airports or facing Air Routes, for the purpose of maintaining air safety and efficiency of Airport equipment.
Aerial Advertisements:	Advertisements using aircraft or balloons, whether by carrying or dropping advertising material or any other relevant method.
Laser:	A device which converts energy from various sources into an electromagnetic beam.

### **Objectives of the Law Article (3)**

This Law will have the objectives to:

1. maintain Airspace Safety and security for air traffic in the Emirate in accordance with the international standards recognised by the International Civil Aviation Organisation and the UAE General Civil Aviation Authority;
2. regulate civil aviation-related activities and Professions;
3. efficiently use the Airspace of the Emirate; and
4. prohibit activities and acts that may compromise the safety of aircraft, Airports, and Facilities for monitoring air navigation.

### **Functions of the DCAA Article (4)**

Without prejudice to the provisions of the conventions and treaties to which the UAE or the Emirate is a party, and of federal civil aviation legislation, and for the purpose of achieving the objectives of this Law, the DCAA will have the duties and powers to:

1. supervise and approve all safety and security procedures for Airport facilities and systems in the Emirate;
2. supervise and approve the modification and upgrade of navigation equipment in accordance with international and local legislation, and international best practices;

3. in coordination with the concerned entities in the Emirate, determine the requirements and specifications necessary for the construction of Heliports;
4. determine the requirements and specifications necessary for the provision and installation of Warning Lights on Towers, Facilities, and Heliports;
5. determine areas for recreational and sports aviation activities, gliding, aerial photography, aerial survey, and similar activities;
6. determine the requirements for the use of Laser, pyrotechnic displays, sky trackers, drones, and similar devices which may compromise Airspace Safety and security; and determine places where these devices may be used;
7. inspect Towers, Facilities, Heliports, Warning Lights, and any activities or acts which may compromise Airspace Safety and security;
8. inspect and monitor all civil aviation activities and persons practising the Profession; and
9. determine acts which constitute a danger to Airports, air navigation Facilities, aircraft, passengers, and air traffic.

**Airspace Safety**  
**Article (5)**

No natural or legal person may breach any legal duty, or perform any act or activity which may compromise Airspace Safety and security in the Emirate in any manner whatsoever.

**Authorisations to Practise the Profession**  
**Article (6)**

- a. Any person who wishes to practise the Profession in the Emirate must first obtain an authorisation from the DCAA. Such authorisation will be issued in accordance with the requirements and procedures determined by a resolution of the Director General.
- b. The authorisation referred to in paragraph (a) of this Article will be valid for a period of one (1) year renewable for the same period.
- c. A person who practises the Profession and wishes to renew his authorisation must submit a renewal application to the DCAA thirty (30) days prior to expiry of the authorisation.

**Obligations of Persons Practising the Profession**  
**Article (7)**

The obligations of a person who practises the Profession in the Emirate will be determined pursuant to a resolution issued in this respect by the Chairman of the Executive Council.

**Aviation Easement**  
**Article (8)**

- a. In agreement with the DM, the DCAA may create Aviation Easements and determine their scope and the areas in which they are applicable in accordance with maps and plans approved by the Director General and the director general of the DM. Such maps and plans must be published in the Official Gazette of the Government of Dubai.
- b. Subject to the legislation in force, in agreement with the DM and the Competent Entities in the Emirate, and pursuant to the Aviation Easement, the DCAA may:
  - 1. prohibit the construction of Towers or Facilities, the conduct of any activity, or the variation of land use in a manner that affects the relevant Aviation Easements or compromise Airspace Safety;
  - 2. prohibit the construction of or remove buildings, Facilities, or any obstacles whatsoever that may exist in areas adjacent to or facing Airports existing in the Emirate or buildings housing air navigation equipment.
- c. Activities conducted in Aviation Easement areas may not be varied without first obtaining the relevant approval of the DCAA.

**Construction or Elevation Permits**  
**Article (9)**

Competent Entities regulating construction works in the Emirate, including Special Development Zones, and free zones such as the Dubai International Financial Centre, may not issue permits for the construction or elevation of buildings in excess of the heights prescribed in approved planning and construction regulations in Aviation Easement areas without first obtaining the relevant approval of the DCAA.

**Restricted and Hazardous Areas**  
**Article (10)**

The DCAA may restrict or ban aircraft flights in any area for reasons related to Airspace Safety and security.

**Fees**  
**Article (11)**

In return for issuing authorisations and providing the services prescribed in this Law and the resolutions issued in pursuance hereof, the DCAA will charge the fees determined in a resolution issued by the Chairman of the Executive Council.

**Penalties**  
**Article (12)**

- a. Without prejudice to any stricter penalty stipulated in any other legislation:
1. a person who compromises Airspace Safety in the Emirate in any manner whatsoever will be punished by imprisonment, a fine, or by both penalties.
  2. a person who violates any of the provisions of this Law, or the resolutions issued in pursuance hereof will be punished by a fine of not less than one thousand Dirhams (AED 1,000.00), and not more than one hundred thousand Dirhams (AED 100,000.00). Upon repetition of the same violation within one (1) year from the date of the previous violation, the amount of the fine will be doubled. A fine must not exceed one million Dirhams (AED 1,000,000.00). The Chairman of the Executive Council will determine prohibited acts and their corresponding fines that must be imposed upon violators in a resolution he issues in this respect.
- b. In addition to the fine referred to in paragraph (2)(a) of this Article, the DCAA may take one or more of the following measures against a violator:
1. warning;
  2. suspension of practice of the Profession for up to six (6) months; and/or
  3. revocation of authorisation.
- c. The DCAA may, upon a written request submitted to it by an authorisation holder whose authorisation is revoked, and in accordance with the procedures and rules adopted by the DCAA in this respect, issue him a new authorisation after the lapse of one (1) year from the date of revocation.

**Remedy of Violation**  
**Article (13)**

The DCAA may, in coordination with concerned Government Entities in the Emirate, order a violator to take all necessary actions to remedy, within the grace period it determines, a violation which compromises Airspace Safety and security. Where the violator fails to remedy the violation within the prescribed grace period, the DCAA may remedy the violation and order the violator to pay all relevant costs it incurs, in addition to twenty percent (20%) of such costs as administrative fees. The DCAA will assess such costs, and its assessment will be final.

**Grievance**  
**Article (14)**

Any affected party may submit a written grievance to the Director General against the decision, procedure, or measure taken against him under this Law and the resolutions issued in pursuance hereof within thirty (30) days of being notified of the contested decision,

procedure, or measure. The grievance will be determined, within thirty (30) days from the date of its submission, by a committee formed by the Director General for this purpose, and the decision on the grievance will be final.

### **Payment of Fees and Fines**

#### **Article (15)**

Proceeds of the fees, fines, and other charges collected pursuant to this Law and the resolutions issued in pursuance hereof will be paid to the Public Treasury of the Government of Dubai.

### **Seeking Assistance from Government Entities**

#### **Article (16)**

For the purposes of implementing the provisions of this Law and the resolutions issued in pursuance hereof, the DCAA may seek assistance from Government Entities in the Emirate, including police personnel. These entities must, whenever requested, provide such assistance to the DCAA.

### **Liability of the DCAA**

#### **Article (17)**

The DCAA will not be liable to third parties for any damage they may sustain as a result of practice of the Profession by an authorisation holder.

### **Compliance**

#### **Article (18)**

Any person who practises the Profession by the effective date of this Law must comply with the provisions of this Law within a period not exceeding six (6) months from its effective date. The Director General may, where required, extend this grace period.

### **Issuing Implementing Resolutions**

#### **Article (19)**

The Director General will issue the resolutions required for the implementation of this Law.

### **Repeals**

#### **Article (20)**

Any provision in any other legislation will be repealed to the extent that it contradicts the provisions of this Law.

**Publication and Commencement**  
**Article (21)**

This Law will be published in the Official Gazette and will come into force on the day on which it is published.

**Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum**  
**Ruler of Dubai**

Issued in Dubai on 11 April 2015  
Corresponding to 22 Jumada al-Thaniyah 1436 A.H.