



Consumer Awareness: Buying Drones in Gibraltar

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Drones, also known as Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs), have become increasingly popular and accessible. However, their use in Gibraltar is subject to specific legal and regulatory requirements. Here's what you need to know before purchasing a drone locally.

Regulations and Permissions

- 1. Legal Classification:**
Drone operators, including those operating drones marketed as "toys" or "not requiring a license," are required to comply with relevant Gibraltar aviation regulations when operating in Gibraltar.
- 2. Authorization Required:**
The use of drones in Gibraltar is regulated under the **Civil Aviation (Air Navigation) Regulations 2009**. You must obtain specific authorization from the **Director of Civil Aviation (DCA)** before flying a drone, regardless of its purpose.
- 3. Safety Obligations:**
Operators must ensure that their drone activities do not recklessly or negligently endanger people or property. Violating this requirement could result in penalties.

Radio Frequency Compliance

Operating drones involves radio transmissions that must not interfere with other communication systems. Under the **Communications Act**, the radio frequencies and transmitter power of your drone must comply with local regulations.

For advice on radio frequency standards, contact the **Gibraltar Regulatory Authority** via email: typeapproval@gra.gi

Privacy and Data Protection

Drones equipped with cameras raise privacy and data protection concerns. Operators must consider their obligations under Gibraltar's data protection laws.

For guidance on compliance, reach out to the **Information Rights Team** at the Gibraltar Regulatory Authority via email: privacy@gra.gi

Guidance Before Purchase

Before buying a drone, ensure it meets Gibraltar's operational requirements:

- **Contact the Civil Aviation Office:** Reach out to dca@gibraltar.gov.gi for advice on the limitations and authorizations required for your drone.
- **Research Regulations:** Visit the Civil Aviation webpage for detailed information and FAQs on drone use: [Gibraltar Civil Aviation - Drones](#).

Consumer Rights

When purchasing a drone, your consumer rights under Gibraltar's laws ensure protection from unfair practices:

- **Misleading Claims:** If a trader falsely advertises drones as unrestricted or exempt from legal requirements, they may be in breach of the law.
- **Product Information:** Sellers must provide clear and accurate pre-contract details before purchase.
- **Faulty Products:** If a drone is faulty or does not match its description, you may be entitled to a refund replacement or repair.

Resolving Issues

If you experience issues with a drone purchase or believe a trader has provided misleading information:

- Attempt to resolve the matter directly with the seller.
- If unresolved, contact us for guidance and support at:
 - consumer.protection@gibraltar.gov.gi
 - 20071700

By understanding and adhering to these guidelines, you can make informed decisions, comply with local regulations, and enjoy your drone responsibly in Gibraltar.