

Policy and protocols for drone operations

Objective: as in any other activities, drone operations directed from on board, or in any way associated with the yacht, will come under the guiding principle of being a “good neighbour”.

Notwithstanding the regulations of the authorities in the country in which a drone is being operated, or the absence of any such regulations, any drone being operated from the yacht will avoid any actions which may be perceived as dangerous to others, or harassment of others, or intrude on others’ reasonable expectations of privacy, or are likely to interrupt the peace of others.

These protocols are binding on crew, guests, and any third parties who may be piloting a drone at the request of a person on the yacht,

Any complaints received regarding the activities of a drone being operated from or in association with the yacht will be investigated by the RO. Where appropriate, the captain will consider disciplinary action according to the RO’s findings.

In the event of an official enquiry into a drone flight from or associated with the yacht, failure of a crew member to cooperate with the authorities, or deliberate concealment of information or evidence regarding such flight, will result in dismissal.

The term ‘The yacht’ extends to tenders, and any shore vehicles rented by the yacht. Also included is any crew member who is not signed off, but is on local shore leave.

A Responsible Officer (RO) for drone operations will be nominated. The list of responsibilities includes creating and maintaining a dedicated file of all pertinent documentation. The RO has sole responsibility for approving all drone flights associated with the yacht.

National legislation requirements will be checked for each intended country of operation. A copy of the appropriate most recent update from an authorized website will be appended to the day's flight checklist.

The yacht's insurers and P&I Club will be informed of the intent to operate drones, such notification to include copies of the yacht's drone protocols and flight checklist. A copy of the insurer's written approval of coverage, including, where appropriate, reference to Article 7 of EU regulation no. 785/2004, will be maintained on file.

The Owner's or Manager's legal consultant will be informed of the intent to operate drones. A copy of the legal adviser's written approval will be maintained on file.

The drone operator will be required to sign a release acknowledging full understanding of the pre-flight briefing and checklist, discharging the yacht from any liability towards any tort or other actions which may result from the flight.