



**International
Standard**

ISO 21895

**Categorization and classification of
civil uncrewed aircraft systems**

Catégorisation et classification des aéronefs civils sans pilote

**Second edition
2026-09**

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Foreword

ISO (the International Organization for Standardization) is a worldwide federation of national standards bodies (ISO member bodies). The work of preparing International Standards is normally carried out through ISO technical committees. Each member body interested in a subject for which a technical committee has been established has the right to be represented on that committee. International organizations, governmental and non-governmental, in liaison with ISO, also take part in the work. ISO collaborates closely with the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) on all matters of electrotechnical standardization.

The procedures used to develop this document and those intended for its further maintenance are described in the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 1. In particular, the different approval criteria needed for the different types of ISO document should be noted. This document was drafted in accordance with the editorial rules of the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2 (see www.iso.org/directives).

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This document was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 20, *Aircraft and space vehicles*, Subcommittee SC 16, *Uncrewed aircraft system*.

This second edition cancels and replaces the first edition (ISO 21895:2020), which has been technically revised.

The main changes are as follows:

- Introduction of risk-based taxonomy of UAS Operations. The proposed risk-based taxonomy of UAS operations is aligned with the Foreword of Part IV (International operations of RPAS) of Annex 6 (Operations of Aircraft) to the Chicago Convention.
- Introduction of UAS classes. The proposed UAS classes are harmonized with relevant aviation authorities around the world and already largely used by UAS manufacturers in more than one continent.

Any feedback or questions on this document should be directed to the user's national standards body. A complete listing of these bodies can be found at www.iso.org/members.html.

Introduction

This document sets out a methodology for the multi-dimensional classification of uncrewed aircraft system (UAS) and related risk-based taxonomy of UAS operations. The purpose of this classification model is not to replace any existing regulatory model but to provide a more granular classification tool for those who need to approach the classification of UAS from their own perspective and for whom the regulatory model is too broad. Examples include but are not limited to engineers, manufacturers, certification bodies, insurance underwriters or accident investigators.

Risk-based categorization of UAS operations is inspired by ICAO guidance, which is applicable world-wide.

For taxonomies of domains beyond UAS and their operations, readers can refer to documents cited in the Bibliography, for levels of automation, vertiports and UTM services.

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