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Production Alert: FAA's Prohibition on the Commercial Use of Unmanned Aircraft Systems

There has been a lot of interest lately regarding the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and their prohibition on the commercial use of Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS). Commercial use includes cameras mounted on remote controlled helicopters (or drones) for film shoots. You may have seen the recent articles about a lawsuit and appeal pending before the National Transportation Safety Board. Until the issue is settled by the National Transportation Safety Board, the State of California cannot allow the use of UAS when filming on state property.

That said, the FAA is under growing pressure to find methods to allow small UAS to operate and they are finalizing a Small UAS rule that should be published for public comment later this summer or early fall. This proposed rule will provide a legal venue for the use of Small UAS while minimizing the risk associated with the operation of these vehicles.

The California Film Commission is in contact with the FAA and will continue to monitor the pending appeal and any new rules governing the use of UAS for filming.

See related articles below:

[L.A.Times- FAA under pressure as clamor for small commercial drones grows](#)

[FAA Press Release - March 2014](#)

[Wall Street Journal -Judge Says FAA Lacks Clear Authority on Commercial Drones](#)