

AV-29017/34/2020-SDIT-MOCA  
Government of India  
Ministry of Civil Aviation

Rajiv Gandhi Bhavan, New Delhi  
19 Oct 2020

**ORDER**

**SUBJECT: Conditional exemption under Rule 160 of the Aircraft Rules, 1937 from the provisions of Rule 15A of the Aircraft Rule, 1937 to National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) for carrying out research and inspection activities at Vindhyachal Super Thermal Power Station, Madhya Pradesh, Gadarwara Super Thermal Power Plant, Madhya Pradesh and Sipat Super Thermal Power Project, Chhattisgarh using drones.**

1. Whereas, National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) (the 'Applicant') had, vide email dated 23 Sep 2020 sought an exemption from Rule 15A and CAR Section 3, Series X, Part I for the afore-mentioned purpose.
2. Whereas based on the request of and undertaking provided by the Applicant, DGCA, vide letter no. DGCA-27046/27/2020-AED-DGCA dated 19 Oct 2020, accorded exemption to the Applicant from the CAR Section 3, Series X, Part I for the afore-mentioned purpose.
3. Now, therefore, the Central Government, in exercise of the powers conferred by Rule 160 of the Aircraft Rules, 1937, grants conditional exemption to the Applicant for a period as stated in the above-mentioned letter from DGCA or until further orders, whichever is earlier; from the provisions of Rule 15A of the Aircraft Rules, 1937 for the afore-mentioned purpose. This shall be subject to complete adherence to the conditions as mentioned in the DGCA letter (copy enclosed).



(Amber Dubey)

Joint Secretary to the Government of India

To:

1. All Ministries/ Departments of the Government of India
2. Chief Secretaries/ Administrators of all States/ Union Territories
3. DGPs/ Heads of Police of all States/ Union Territories
4. Joint Secretary (Internal Security), Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), New Delhi
5. Joint Director, Intelligence Bureau (Shri Janardan Singh), New Delhi
6. Director, G-Wing, Ministry of Defence, New Delhi
7. Gp Cpt K.B. Mathews, Air Headquarters, IAF, New Delhi
8. DG, Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA), New Delhi
9. DG, Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS), New Delhi
10. Chairman, Airports Authority of India (AAI), New Delhi
11. PS to HMoSCA (IC), Ministry of Civil Aviation, New Delhi
12. Sr. PPS to Secretary, Ministry of Civil Aviation, New Delhi
13. National Informatics Centre (NIC) team, Rajiv Gandhi Bhavan, New Delhi
14. Digital Sky Platform

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GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
OFFICE OF THE  
DIRECTOR GENERAL OF CIVIL AVIATION  
OPP.SAFDARJUNG AIRPORT,  
NEW DELHI - 110003  
Aircraft Engineering Directorate



भारत सरकार  
महानिदेशक नागर विमानन  
का कार्यालय  
सफदरजंग एरपोर्ट के सामने  
नई दिल्ली - ११० ००३  
विमान अभियांत्रिकी निदेशालय

Reference No./संख्या: DGCA-27046/27/2020-AED-DGCA  
Dated/दिनांक: 19<sup>th</sup> October, 2020

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NETRA Complex (NTPC Energy Technology and Research Alliance),  
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Distt. Gautam Budh Nagar, U.P.-201306.

(Kind attention: Shri Shaswattam, GM (NETRA, NTPC))

**Subject: Exemption from CAR Section '3', Series 'X', Part-I to use Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems (RPAS) to carry out research and inspection activities at National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) Sites -Vindhyachal Super Thermal Power Station, Madhya Pradesh/Gadarwara Super Thermal Power Station, Madhya Pradesh /Sipat Super Thermal Power Station, Chhattisgarh by National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) Ltd.-Reg.**

Sir,

This has reference to letter No.DO:04:GM:NETRA dated 23<sup>rd</sup> September, 2020 and e-mail dated 23<sup>rd</sup> September, 2020 and subsequent correspondence regarding permission to use Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems (RPAS) to carry out research and inspection activities at National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) Sites -Vindhyachal Super Thermal Power Station, Madhya Pradesh/Gadarwara Super Thermal Power Station, Madhya Pradesh /Sipat Super Thermal Power Station, Chhattisgarh by National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) Ltd.

Based on the information provided and undertakings, this office hereby accords exemption from CAR Section '3', Series 'X', Part-I to National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) Ltd to use Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems (RPAS) to carry out research and inspection activities at National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) Sites -Vindhyachal Super Thermal Power Station, Madhya Pradesh/Gadarwara Super Thermal Power Station, Madhya Pradesh /Sipat Super Thermal Power Station, Chhattisgarh. The above stated exemption shall be valid until 31st December, 2020 from the date of issue of this letter or until the operationalization of Digital Sky Platform, whichever is earlier.

However, this exemption shall be valid only if all conditions and limitations as stated in Annexure-I to this letter are strictly adhered to. In case of violation of any condition, this exemption shall become null and void.

Encl.: As stated

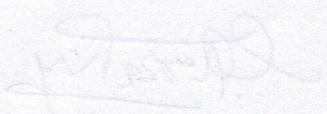
(G. Rajasekar)

Joint Director General of Civil Aviation  
for Director General of Civil Aviation



Copy for information to:

1. Joint Secretary (Sh. Amber Dubey), Ministry of Civil Aviation, New Delhi 110003
2. Director, G-Wing, Ministry of Defence, South Block, New Delhi 110001
3. The Executive Director (ASM), Airport Authority of India, Safdarjung Airport, New Delhi 110003- carry out the verification and oversight of exact co-ordinates of RPAS flying and other essential permission.
4. Director (I & R), DGCA HQ- regarding permission for Aerial Photography (if applicable).
5. Director (FSD), DGCA regrading Serial No. 4 of Annexure-I
6. DDG (Air Safety) - DGCA HQ.




Director General of Civil Aviation  
for Director General of Civil Aviation



**Conditions and limitations to National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) Ltd to carry out research and inspection activities at National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) Sites - Vindhyachal Super Thermal Power Station, Madhya Pradesh/Gadarwara Super Thermal Power Station, Madhya Pradesh /Sipat Super Thermal Power Station, Chhattisgarh using Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems**

1. This exemption to National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) Ltd from the relevant provisions of CAR Section 3, Series X, Part I, is subject to exemption from Rule 15A of the Aircraft Rules, 1937 by Ministry of Civil Aviation.
2. The National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) Ltd shall obtain necessary clearances from (a) Local Administration (b) Ministry of Defence (c) Ministry of Home Affairs (d) Air Defence clearance from Indian Air Force and (e) Airport Authority of India (AAI) prior to operation of Remotely Piloted Aircraft System (RPAS).
3. The National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) Ltd shall only operate the RPAS which has been voluntarily disclosed to Government of India and issued with a valid Drone Acknowledgement Number (DAN) (i.e. D1DX00S1T and D1DX00S24 for NETRA PRO of M/s IdeaForge Technology Pvt Ltd).
4. The National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) Ltd shall submit a comprehensive brief on the scope of operations and the copy of SOP to Flight Standards Directorate (FSD), DGCA. Operation of Remotely Piloted Aircraft System (RPAS) shall be carried out only after the vetting/ approval of SOP.
5. National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) Ltd shall take necessary permission regarding Aerial Photography, if applicable, from Directorate of Regulations & Information, DGCA.
6. The photographs/video-graphs, if taken through RPAS shall be used by National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) Ltd only. National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) Ltd shall be responsible for security of RPAS and data collected through RPAS.
7. The operation of RPAS shall be restricted to day operations (from sunrise to Sunset), within Visual Line Of Sight (VLOS).
8. The National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) Ltd shall indemnify DGCA from any legal cases or any other issues arising due to these operations.
9. The National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) Ltd shall ensure that the RPAS is in working condition and shall be responsible for any eventualities due to malfunction / disorientation of equipment.
10. In case of any injury to any person due to physical contact with the equipment, National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) Ltd shall be responsible for medico-legal issues.
11. The National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) Ltd shall have adequate level of insurance to cover any damage to third party resulting from accident / incident occurred during the operation of RPAS.
12. The National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) Ltd shall ensure that hazardous material or variable payload are not carried in / using the RPA under any circumstances.
13. National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) Ltd shall ensure safety, security and privacy of public, property, operator etc. Further, in case of any eventuality, DGCA shall not be held responsible.
14. National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) Ltd shall not operate the RPAS in no-fly zones specified in Para 13.1 of the CAR Section 3, Series X, Part I without the approval of concerned Ministries/ authorities.
15. RPAS shall not be operated in the vicinity of airport as per the provisions of the CAR. If operated near the airport, approval from Airports Authority of India (AAI) shall be taken in advance regarding time and area of operations of RPAS.
16. National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) Ltd shall ensure that only trained / experienced bona fide personnel operates the RPAS.
17. This letter shall not override other restrictions / SOP on Remotely Piloted Aircraft System framed by other Government Agencies.
18. In case of incident/accident during at any phase of the operations, reports to be submitted to Air Safety Directorate of DGCA.

  
19.10.2020.

श्री. राजसेकार J. RAJASEKAR  
संयुक्त महानिदेशक  
Joint Director General