



Document Title: EDS/ UAS Certification Process Details	
Document no: EDS/UA VCC/006	
Version: 03	
Version Date: 08-05-2026	

Table of Contents

Objective	2
1 Scope	2
1.1 Classification of Unmanned Aircraft System as per Drone Rules 2021	2
2 References:	3
3 Certification Process	3
3.1 Application for Certification	3
3.2 Application Review	3
3.3 Preparation and Planning for Evaluation	3
4 Evaluation Process	4
4.1 Stage 1 Evaluation	4
4.2 Stage 2 Evaluation	4
4.3 Independent Testing of Samples / Components	4
4.4 Final Evaluation	4
4.5 Review	4
4.6 Evaluation Decision	4
4.7 Certification Documentation	5
4.8 The Evaluation Report	5
4.9 Directory of Certified UAS by DGCA	5
4.10 Recommendation of Suspension and Withdrawal of Certificate	5
4.11 Renewal of Statement of Conformity	5
4.12 Cancellation	5
4.13 Changes Affecting Certification	5
4.14 Change of Ownership/Name and Change of Location	6
4.15 Extension of Scope	6
5 Evaluation Fees	6
6 Client Records	6
7 Annexure A1: Process flow for fresh application for type approval	7
8 Annexure A2: Process flow for extension of scope application	8

Document Title: EDS/ UAS Certification Process Details	
Document no: EDS/UA VCC/006	
Version: 03	
Version Date: 08-05-2026	

Objective

This document explains how ARAI (as an authorized Certifying Body - CB) should evaluate manufacturers, importers, and assemblers of Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) to ensure they meet safety and security requirements defined in the Certification Criteria for UAS. The goal is to ensure consistent, uniform, and reliable evaluation across all certification bodies.

Certification Bodies: ARAI as defined in Drone Rules, 2021, notified by India's Ministry of Civil Aviation, are responsible for testing UAS for type certification.

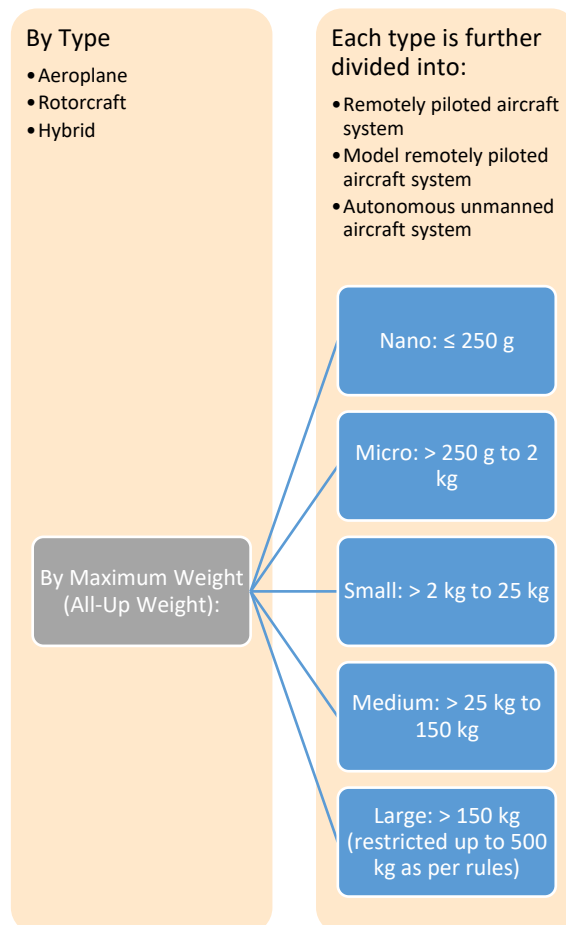
Final Certificate: DGCA grants the type certificate based on ARAI's evaluation and recommendation.


1 Scope

Applicability: The certification process applies to specific make / models of UAS made or imported in India. For simplicity, both manufacturers and importers are referred to as "manufacturers."

Purpose: This document outlines the requirements and procedures manufacturers must follow to obtain and maintain UAS certification. ARAI evaluates each UAS model for compliance with the Certification Criteria (EDS/UA VCC/006).

1.1 Classification of Unmanned Aircraft System as per Drone Rules 2021



Document Title: EDS/ UAS Certification Process Details	
Document no: EDS/UA VCC/006	
Version: 03	
Version Date: 08-05-2026	

2 References:

- I. The 'Certification Scheme for Unmanned Aircraft Systems', notified by the Ministry of Civil Aviation via S.O. 347(E) in the Gazette of India: Extraordinary, published on 26th January 2022. <https://egazette.gov.in/WriteReadData/2022/232917.pdf>
- II. Drone Rules, 2021, notified by India's Ministry of Civil Aviation on 25 August 2021; <https://digitalsky.dgca.gov.in/assets/files/UasRules.pdf>

3 Certification Process

The Certification process will be as per the Section 3.0 of the certification process as specified in the 'Certification Scheme for Unmanned Aircraft Systems', notified by the Ministry of Civil Aviation via S.O. 347(E) in the Gazette of India: Extraordinary, published on 26th January 2022.

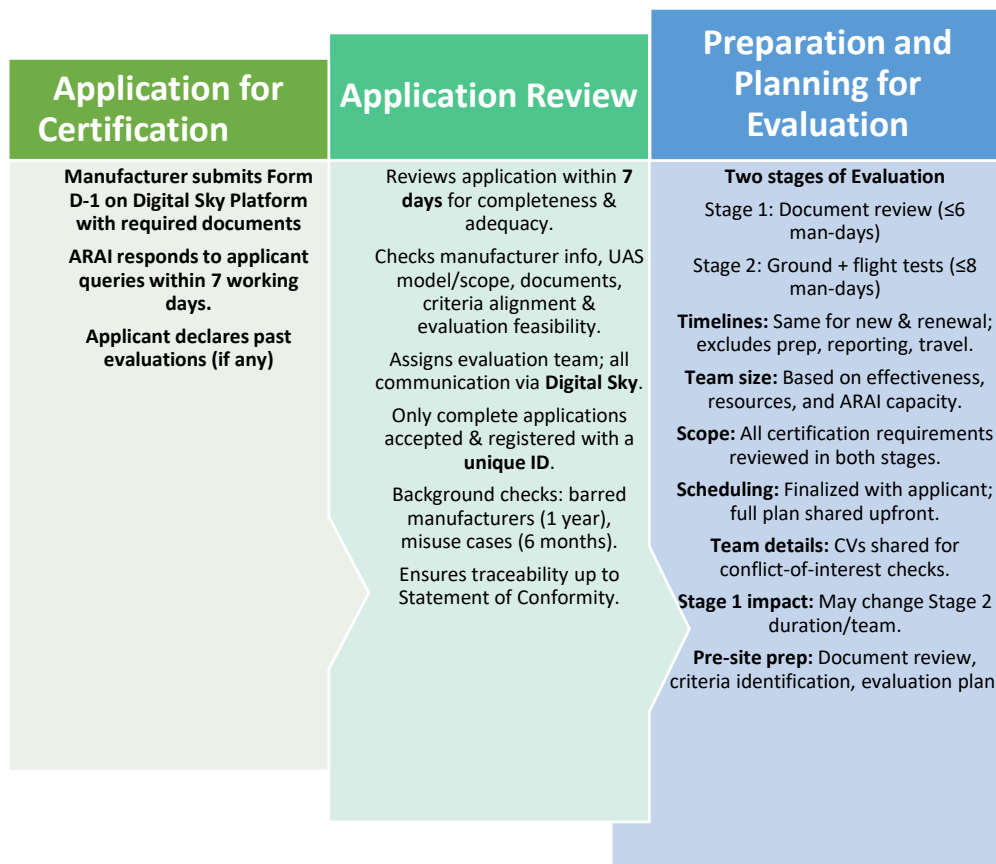
<https://egazette.gov.in/WriteReadData/2022/232917.pdf>


The easy to understand process is mentioned as below for the understanding purpose. Please, read the reference mentioned above for the detailed process.

3.1 Application for Certification

3.2 Application Review

3.3 Preparation and Planning for Evaluation



Document Title: EDS/ UAS Certification Process Details	
Document no: EDS/UA VCC/006	
Version: 03	
Version Date: 08-05-2026	

4 Evaluation Process

4.1 Stage 1 Evaluation

Review documents for compliance & prepare/adjust Stage 2 plan.

Process:

1. Review all submitted documents per UAS model.
2. Non-compliances → applicant must submit corrected docs/samples.
3. Team prepares compliance/deficiency report.
4. Certification kept on hold until issues are resolved.
5. If unresolved in given time → process discontinued as per Drone Rules.

4.2 Stage 2 Evaluation

Stage 2 starts only after full Stage 1 compliance.

Activities:

- I. Conduct on-site, flight, and lab tests (as required).
- II. Software/firmware safety & security tested in Govt-approved/NABL labs.
- III. ARAI may witness on-site testing; manufacturer flight tests are witnessed; flight logs verified.

Non-Compliance:

- I. Certification put on hold up to 60 days.
- II. If unresolved → process discontinued and closed.

4.3 Independent Testing of Samples / Components

ARAI may independently test samples / components with manufacturer's consent. If Govt. / NABL labs are far, ARAI witnesses on-site testing. Any applicant test witnessed by ARAI is considered as independent testing.

4.4 Final Evaluation


ARAI reviews all Stage 1, Stage 2, and independent test results. Confirms all requirements are met with no non-conformities. Makes recommendation for next step (review & decision). Conducted by authorized competent personnel. Records retained for 10 years or product life.

4.5 Review

Conducted by competent, authorized person(s) not involved in evaluation. Based strictly on certification criteria & scheme requirements. Any external information (complaints, incidents) must be shared with applicant. Review records must justify recommendation.

4.6 Evaluation Decision

ARAI alone decides certification; decision makers must not be evaluators. Impartiality & no conflict of interest ensured. If certified → ARAI sends recommendation to DGCA. If rejected → reasons communicated; applicant may reapply.

Document Title: EDS/ UAS Certification Process Details	
Document no: EDS/UA VCC/006	
Version: 03	
Version Date: 08-05-2026	

4.7 Certification Documentation

ARAI issues Statement of Conformity (valid 5 years). Includes ARAI/applicant details, criteria, model, payloads, validity, revision control, signatures. Issued only after DGCA grants/extends certification and agreements are signed.

4.8 The Evaluation Report

Stage 1 & 2 reports must show complete evidence of conformity for each model. ARAI submits report + Statement of Conformity to DGCA within 60 days of Form D-1 upload.

4.9 Directory of Certified UAS by DGCA

ARAI maintains public list of DGCA-certified UAS, including model, payloads, standards, manufacturer details. Suspended/cancelled manufacturers also displayed. System must allow certificate validity checks.

4.10 Recommendation of Suspension and Withdrawal of Certificate

ARAI recommends suspension/withdrawal when:

1. Non-certified models are marketed as certified
2. Adverse events/complaints occur
3. Models fail compliance at renewal
4. Manufacturer requests withdrawal
5. Administrative issues (e.g., non-payment)

During suspension:

1. Certification is temporarily invalid
2. Manufacturer must stop using certification mark
3. Sales/despatch of certified UAS must stop
4. Suspension max: 6 months, else certificate cancelled

4.11 Renewal of Statement of Conformity

ARAI sends notice 4 months prior to expiry. Manufacturer must apply at least 3 months before expiry. Renewal includes full on-site evaluation like initial certification. Review considers: past suspensions, complaints, corrective actions, adverse reports. No conditional renewal allowed, if performance poor → certificate cancelled.


4.12 Cancellation

ARAI recommends cancellation if:

1. Terms/conditions of certification are violated
2. Models fail compliance
3. Manufacturer requests cancellation due to calamities, shutdown, etc.

4.13 Changes Affecting Certification

ARAI informs manufacturers of new/revised requirements. Manufacturer must apply for delta compliance. Contract mandates reporting of any product changes to ARAI.

Document Title: EDS/ UAS Certification Process Details	
Document no: EDS/UA VCC/006	
Version: 03	
Version Date: 08-05-2026	

4.14 Change of Ownership/Name and Change of Location

Manufacturer must submit a review application to update certification scope.

4.15 Extension of Scope

Manufacturer submits application for new models/payloads. Same full evaluation process as initial certification. Extension details added to Statement of Conformity; validity remains unchanged.

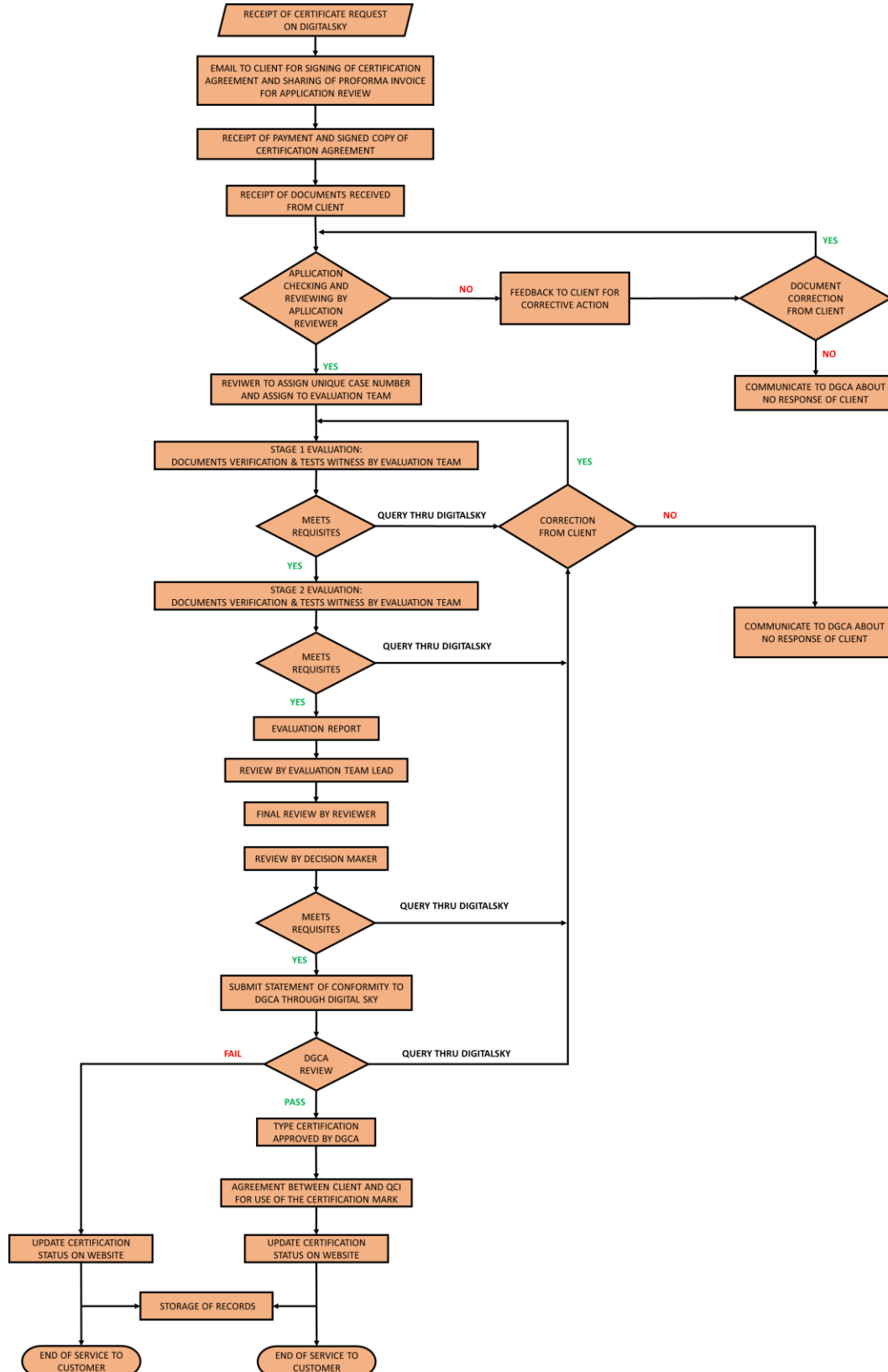
5 Evaluation Fees

ARAI charges fees fairly and equally to all applicants. The fee structure is publicly available and can be shared on request. ARAI must inform and obtain consent from manufacturers before issuing the Statement of Conformity. Any fee changes must be communicated to all applicants and certified manufacturers for their acceptance.

6 Client Records

ARAI must maintain a documented policy and procedures for record retention. Records must clearly show that all certification process requirements were properly fulfilled.

7 Annexure A1: Process flow for fresh application for type approval



8 Annexure A2: Process flow for extension of scope application

