

Evaluating Legislation Impacting Drone Flight Planning Compliance: Focus on the Key Points Act, Land Survey Act, and the Spatial Data Infrastructure Act

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SUMMARY

This paper evaluates the legislative frameworks governing drone operations in South Africa, focusing on the Land Survey, Spatial Data Infrastructure, and the associated Acts. With the widespread adoption of drone technology across various sectors, including geomatics or geospatial science, there is a critical need to assess the existing laws that regulate these technologies. The paper highlights how South Africa's legislative environment is adapting to accommodate the innovative uses of drones while ensuring safety, privacy, and compliance with international standards. The analysis reveals that while South Africa has established a comprehensive set of regulations, continual updates and reforms are necessary to keep pace with technological advancements. The study examines specific legislative requirements, operational restrictions, and the roles of different stakeholders in shaping drone policy. Key recommendations include amending certain aspects of the acts to provide clearer guidelines on drone operations, particularly in relation to airspace management, data collection, and privacy concerns. The findings suggest that a proactive approach, involving regular updates to legislation and active engagement with stakeholders, is essential for integrating drone technologies into South Africa's social and economic fabric. This will not only enhance the capabilities of drones in various applications but also ensure that their integration into civilian airspace is managed safely and effectively. The paper calls for ongoing research and dialogue to address the evolving challenges and opportunities presented by drone technology in South Africa.

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