

Distribution permit regulations regarding drone images

The flying of drones in all three counties: Finland, Norway and Sweden, must be carried out according to current aviation laws and regulations in each county. A flying permit or drone registration may be needed.

General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) may apply if people are visible in the images and videos.

If possible:

- ask for permission from those that may be visible in the images or videos

Else:

- take the photo from as far a distance as possible, to minimize recognition
- edit out people
- edit out license plates and other objects that can act as an identifier for people

Finland

Taking photographs and inspecting military zones from the air requires authorization. The targets inspected may be moving or shifting. Therefore, a permit is often needed for aerial photography.

No permit is needed when:

- the area is limited, small, well-known and identified.
- does not include troops, buildings or vehicles mentioned in section 14 of the Territorial Surveillance Act.
- photography is not extensive and focuses instead on a predetermined target, such as a narrow power line, block, park area, industrial area or area of forest, or an area that is less than 500 km².

For the EISCAT3D site and surroundings in Finland, **we do not need a permit**.

Norway

Norway has no specific regulations regarding the spread of drone images or videos other than:

- do not use images or information from the drone for purposes other than those for which the information was originally collected.
- be considerate of others privacy. Take note of the rules concerning photos and films of other people.

Therefore, **we do not need a permit** to use drone images from the sites in Norway.

Sweden

In Sweden the use of drone images and videos are regulated by the law on protection of geographical information, according to section 9 of the Act (2016: 319). In short, this means that we are not allowed to spread potentially harmful images and videos taken by air (e.g. drone- and aerial photography).

Distribution permit requirement

In general, a material that contains the horizon, can never be exempted from the permit requirement. This is mainly because you get such large views that you can not determine what the material actually contains.

Even if you crop the image so that the horizon disappears, you may need spreading permission as the image still captures a large view and may contain information that may not be spread.

Examples of content that requires distribution permit and not

You must apply for a distribution permit if the image contains:

- buildings, objects and environments
 - you do not need to apply for a distribution permit if you are sure that the picture only shows private residential buildings with associated facilities and plots of land, as well as roads.
- construction site
 - if you can crop out all surroundings (e.g power lines, other buildings, horizon) you do not need to apply for a distribution permit. Straight down images, if nothing else is visible, usually not need a permit.
- forest
 - forests may be exempt from the permit if you cannot see through it. The images must not contain things created by humans. If the material contains e.g. a power line or the horizon, the exception does not apply. Forests may be exempt from the permit. The exception applies if the owner of the forest collects the material or if it is done on behalf.

Usually, **we need a permit** in Sweden.

Application

The distribution permit in Sweden, is issued by Lantmäteriet.

Needed for the application:

- all the images and/or videos (digitally)
- the intent usage of the images or videos e.g. presentations, print, website, social media etc.
- if possible, the coordinates or address of the image

The permit process usually takes 5-10 working days. After the permit has been granted you are free to distribute the images as you like.

Responsible for EISCAT application of distribution permits: Emma Unander.