

(Press Release)

July 3, 2026

Japan Ministry of Defense

Expansion of flight restriction zones for drones following amendment to the Drone Act

With the enforcement of the Act Partially Amending the Drone Act (Act No. 47, 2026), flight restriction zones for drones will be expanded to include the airspace above surrounding areas of facilities within approximately 1,000 meters.

Accordingly, a public notice has been issued designating the premises or areas of each designated defense-related facility and the surrounding area extending approximately 1,000 meters as the designated facility surrounding area pertaining to that facility.

After an 11-day public notification period, the area where drone flights are prohibited will, in principle, be expanded from approximately 300 meters to approximately 1,000 meters around each designated defense-related facility (from July 14, 2026 onward). Any person, who intends to operate drones within these areas is required to follow the prescribed procedures, including obtaining the consent of the facility administrator.

Please refer to the Ministry of Defense website for more information.