

## New System to Lift Standards for Drone Users

**A new standard for unmanned aircraft systems hopes to separate the cowboys from reputable operators, with assessments that are the drone equivalent of those applying to international airlines and the resources industry.**

Organisers behind a well-attended briefing convened in Sydney by UAS International last Friday likened the new system to the International Air Transport Association's Operational Safety Audit and Basic Aviation Risk Standard.

"One of the things that we know is that the reputable, commercial operators that are very, very safe want to be able to differentiate themselves from the emerging great mass," said UAS International commercial director Jeff Eager.

**"The affordability and the access to drones have enabled a whole wave of new players coming into the market that may or may not have safety on their mind."**

JEFF EAGER UAS INTERNATIONAL

"So operators really want to be able to differentiate, and the customers need to be able to differentiate.

"We've had plenty of examples of illegal operations, and commercial folks just don't, if the people they're engaging have the right credentials, the right understanding.

"We have evidence that says operators' certificates have been shared or lent, so if a guy can't do a job, he passes the drone to

somebody and says can you look after it for me, fly around a house for real estate."



The use of drones is increasing, and with that the need for more regulation.

Source: News Corp Australia

The new risk-based safety standard, launched in conjunction with insurer QBE, is believed to be the first of its type in the world and has been developed to align with International Civil Aviation Organisation guidelines released in March.

It will also match or exceed local standards.

UAS operators certified by the local regulator and audited against the UAS International standard will form a panel that will be visible on a centralised database.

Customers such as media organisations, the resource sector or agricultural businesses seeking a reputable operator will be able to access the database according to specialist categories and see a full history of their potential hire.

QBE will provide insurance premium incentives to operators who meet and maintain compliance to the new safety standard.

UAS International says strong interest in the standard has already been expressed by the media, emergency service and resource sectors, suggesting a demand from clients for more stringent safety standards to conduct higher risk operations.

UAS International technical director Jim Coyne said the ICAO manual forming the basis for the organisation's standard was designed to provide guidance to countries on the technical operational issues that would enable drones to fly in non-segregated airspace.

Mr Coyne said the development of ICAO and CASA rules would lead to modifications to the UAS International standard.

He said ICAO was initially working on licensing, operations, airworthiness and telecommunications standards but this would take about two years to publish.

The standard would also take into account modifications by CASA to the existing Part 101 and the remotely piloted aircraft-specific Part 102.