

Federal rules make it easier to fly drone commercially

By Jordee Kalk, KCRG TV9 | Posted: Wed 11:42 PM, Aug 31, 2016 | Updated: Thu 12:09 AM, Sep 01, 2016

CEDAR RAPIDS, Iowa (KCRG TV9) - New rules from the Federal Aviation Administration could make commercial drone use more common.



Courtesy: MGN Online

The new rules say any person, over age 16, can take a commercial drone pilot exam. Before this week, anyone who wanted a license to fly a drone commercially needed a pilot's license.

Caleb Howard took the exam on Monday. He said he spent about 30 hours studying.

"The new rules it has to be in the visual line of sight at all times," Howard said. ⊗

Howard said the changes are a step in the right direction.

Caleb plans to use his new license to take aerial video photography.

"Now with this new commercial rule, there's going to be a lot more people doing it," he said.

Caleb says he, and the FAA, stress safety with the new regulations.

"That was the biggest part of the test is making sure you fly and be responsible for yourself. And not just yourself, but the property around your crew members," Howard said.

Also to plan a flight ahead of time.

Certain places, like airports, can make its own drone regulations.

At the Eastern Iowa airport, drones are not allowed within five miles of the airport. However in certain situations waivers can be given.

The drones have to weigh between .55 pounds and 55 pounds. The new rules also require a waiver to fly the drones at night.
