



Designation: F3002 – 22

Standard Specification for Design of the Command and Control System for Small Unmanned Aircraft Systems (sUAS)¹

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1. Scope

1.1 This specification is provided as a consensus standard in support of an application to a nation's governing aviation authority (GAA) for a permit to operate a small unmanned aircraft system (sUAS) for commercial or public use purposes.

1.2 *This standard does not purport to address all of the safety concerns, if any, associated with its use. It is the responsibility of the user of this standard to establish appropriate safety, health, and environmental practices and determine the applicability of regulatory limitations prior to use.*

1.3 *This international standard was developed in accordance with internationally recognized principles on standardization established in the Decision on Principles for the Development of International Standards, Guides and Recommendations issued by the World Trade Organization Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) Committee.*

2. Referenced Documents

2.1 ASTM Standards:²

[F2910 Specification for Design and Construction of a Small Unmanned Aircraft System \(sUAS\)](#)

[F2911 Practice for Production Acceptance of Small Unmanned Aircraft System \(sUAS\)](#)

[F3003 Specification for Quality Assurance of a Small Unmanned Aircraft System \(sUAS\)](#)

[F3060 Terminology for Aircraft](#)

[F3341/F3341M Terminology for Unmanned Aircraft Systems](#)

2.2 EN Standard:³

[EN 62262 Degrees of protection provided by enclosures for electrical equipment against external mechanical impacts \(IK code\)](#)

¹ This specification is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee F38 on Unmanned Aircraft Systems and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee F38.01 on Airworthiness.

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² For referenced ASTM standards, visit the ASTM website, www.astm.org, or contact ASTM Customer Service at service@astm.org. For *Annual Book of ASTM Standards* volume information, refer to the standard's Document Summary page on the ASTM website.

³ Available from American National Standards Institute (ANSI), 25 W. 43rd St., 4th Floor, New York, NY 10036, <http://www.ansi.org>.

2.3 IEC Standard:³

[IEC 60529 Degrees of protection provided by enclosures \(IP Code\)](#)

3. Terminology

3.1 *Unique and Common Terminology*—Terminology used in multiple standards is defined in [F3341/F3341M](#), UAS Terminology Standard and [F3060](#), Aircraft Terminology Standard. Terminology that is unique to this specification is defined in this section.

3.1.1 *bit error rate detection, BER, n*—rate at which errors occur in a transmission system; applicable to any system that transmits data over a network of some form in which noise, interference, and phase jitter may cause degradation of the digital signal.

3.1.2 *command and control (C2) link(s), n*—safety-critical radio-frequency (RF) link(s) between the ground control station (GCS) and the unmanned aircraft (UA).

3.1.3 *C2 range, n*—distance between GCS and UA at which positive control of the UA can be maintained.

3.1.4 *downlink, n*—any RF link from UA to GCS.

3.1.5 *flight control system, FCS, n*—composed of system components intended to take GCS commands via a C2 link and control flight control surfaces and propulsion systems.

3.1.5.1 *Discussion*—The FCS may include autopilot functions, lost-link functions, fly-away protection functions, payload functions, and navigation functions. The FCS may be contained in one discrete component or multiple discrete components.

3.1.6 *fly away, n*—unintended flight outside of operational boundaries (altitude/airspeed/lateral) as the result of a failure of the control element or onboard systems, or both.

3.1.7 *fly-away protection system, n*—a system that will return the UA safely to the surface, or keep the UA within the intended operational area, when the C2 link between the pilot and the UA is lost.

3.1.8 *ground control station, GCS, n*—a land- or sea-based control center that provides the facilities for human control of UA.

3.1.9 *licensed band, n*—any frequency or range of frequencies in which transmission requires permission from a governing body (for example, the Federal Communications Commission [FCC]).

3.1.10 *link error, n*—degradation of the digital signal between the GCS and the UA that can be monitored by techniques including BER detection.

3.1.11 *link integrity, n*—acceptable rate of transactions completed with undetected error.

3.1.12 *link timeout, n*—time between the actual lost-link event being validated and the system initiating the lost-link procedure.

3.1.13 *lost link, n*—occurrence in which the pilot in command (PIC) has lost the ability to control positively the sUAS because of degradation, loss or interruption of the necessary control or monitoring link(s), or both.

3.1.14 *manufacturer, n*—entity responsible for assembly and integration of components and subsystems to create a safe operating sUAS.

3.1.15 *pilot in command, PIC, n*—the pilot responsible for the operation and safety of the UA during flight time.

3.1.16 *positive control, n*—a condition in which commanded changes in the UA flight path result in the expected maneuver(s) within an expected period of time.

3.1.17 *small unmanned aircraft system, sUAS, n*—composed of the small unmanned aircraft (sUA) and all required on-board subsystems, payload, control station, other required off-board subsystems, any required launch and recovery equipment, and C2 links between the sUA and the control station.

3.1.18 *unmanned aircraft, UA, n*—airborne portion of the sUAS.

3.1.19 *uplink, n*—any RF link from GCS to UA.

3.2 Acronyms:

3.2.1 *BER*—Bit Error Rate

3.2.2 *C2*—Command and Control

3.2.3 *FCC*—Federal Communications Commission

3.2.4 *FCS*—Flight Control Station

3.2.5 *GAA*—Governing Aviation Authority

3.2.6 *GCS*—Ground Control Station

3.2.7 *GPS*—Global Positioning System

3.2.8 *HMI*—Human/Machine Interface

3.2.9 *PIC*—Pilot in Command

3.2.10 *RF*—Radio Frequency

3.2.11 *RFI*—Radio Frequency Interference

3.2.12 *RX*—Receiver

3.2.13 *sUA*—Small Unmanned Aircraft

3.2.14 *sUAS*—Small Unmanned Aircraft System

3.2.15 *TX*—Transmitter

3.2.16 *UA*—Unmanned Aircraft

4. Applicability

4.1 This standard is written for all sUAS that are permitted to operate over a defined area and in airspace authorized by a nation's GAA. It is assumed that one or more visual observers will provide for the sense and avoid requirement to avoid collisions with other aircraft and that the maximum range and altitude at which the sUAS can be flown will be specified by the nation's GAA. Unless otherwise specified by a nation's GAA, this standard applies only to UA that have a maximum gross takeoff weight of 25 kg (55 lb) or less.

5. Functional Architecture

5.1 A high-level functional block diagram of the C2 system is presented in [Fig. 1](#).

6. General Requirements

6.1 The following are general C2 requirements involving the system components listed below:

6.1.1 All C2 system and UA components shall minimize RFI so as not to degrade C2 link performance below acceptable levels.

6.1.2 All C2 system and UA components shall minimize RFI so as not to corrupt data transmitted or received over the C2 link.

6.1.3 All C2 system electronic components shall be protected from impacts that may occur during normal operation (an impact rating of EN 62262 IK06 is recommended).

6.1.4 All C2 system electronic components shall be protected from environmental conditions that may occur during normal operation.

6.1.5 All C2 electronic devices shall be labeled with power requirements.

6.1.6 The C2 system's antenna, associated RF connections and System Acceptance Test Report shall be furnished as part of the C2 system.

6.1.7 Signal and power connectors for C2 electronic devices shall provide self-locking or positive locking connectors to ensure continuity of power and signal transmission during normal operation.

6.1.8 The C2 system shall provide for mounting to a fixed surface using rigid or semi-rigid fasteners. (Non-rigid fasteners, such as strings, rubber bands, and glue, are not permitted for this purpose.)

7. C2 System Spectrum Requirements

7.1 Small UAS operations using unlicensed bands shall be conducted in accordance with applicable regulations.

7.2 Small UAS operations using a licensed band shall obtain approval to use that band from the appropriate governing agency.

8. C2 Link

8.1 *Functional Requirements*—The C2 link shall provide C2 link status to the UA FCS to allow the UA FCS to initiate lost-link logic when C2 link connectivity is lost.

8.2 Performance Requirements:

8.2.1 The rate of C2 link transactions completed with undetected error shall not exceed 0.001 %.