

# **Interpretive bulletin**

## **Placer claim renewals**

### **Drone surveys as assessment credit**

**References:**  
***Placer Mining Act***  
**Section 41**  
**Order in Council**  
**2003/250**

The Schedule of Representation Work ([Placer Mining Act](#)) sets out rates and values for work on claims that may be used for assessment credit. Mining recorders in all districts will consider the following guidelines when interpreting the schedule and determining the value of work for assessment credit. This document must be read alongside the [Schedule of Representation Work in the Order in Council 2003/250](#).

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#### **What is a drone survey?**

A drone survey uses a drone or remotely piloted aircraft, other than a balloon, rocket or kite, operated by a pilot who is not on board to capture aerial data with downward-facing sensors, such as survey equipment or cameras. During a drone survey, an on-board camera and other specialized equipment photograph and scan the ground several times from different angles. This generates data for placer and quartz geological or geophysical analysis.

#### **What is needed to conduct a drone survey?**

The aviation branch of Transport Canada sets out regulated guidance for drone use in Canada. Drone pilots must follow these [regulations and standards](#) while conducting a drone survey. Amendments to the *Canadian Aviation Regulations* for remotely piloted aircraft came into force in 2018-19 under [Part IX – Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems](#). You should read these regulations in full before flying a drone for the first time.



- Drone pilots must carry a valid drone pilot certificate and only fly drones that are marked and registered. If you are flying a drone that is less than 250 grams, you do not need to register the drone or get a drone pilot certificate.

Transport Canada - [Flying your drone safely and legally](#)

#### **Drone surveys as assessment credit**

While some drone survey costs may be used for assessment credit, prior approval from the district mining recorder must be obtained. This document is to clarify requirements in respect to

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drone surveys and the submitted reports. The proposed drone survey must qualify as “miner-like” work, as prescribed in Section A of the schedule. Aerial photography alone does not qualify for assessment credit. Ground photographs must be in support of geological or geophysical work.

Drone survey types may be approved only once for assessment credit per claim or lease. As noted in the [Placer Claim Renewals – Schedule of Representation Work](#) interpretive bulletin, credit will not be given for support staff, including administrative staff, camp staff or on the ground assistants or helpers.

While the schedule does not apply to leases directly, the mining recorder will consider the contents of this bulletin and the relevant sections of the schedule when reviewing drone work and applications on prospecting leases. When submitting for pre-approval on prospecting leases, you must ensure you have included the drone survey in your lease work program or submitted an updated lease work program to the mining recorder that includes the requested drone survey work. Please also refer to the [prospecting lease guidelines](#).

### **Pre-approval requirement for drone surveys**

A detailed proposal outlining the survey must be submitted to the mining recorder to obtain approval, by submitting a [pre-approval request for placer drone survey form](#). The mining recorder may require further information to understand the geological or geophysical value of your proposed program. Prior approval for drone surveying for assessment credit does not authorize any additional activities, related or otherwise. Should your drone program require any additional activity such as new trails, clearings or use of a vehicle or equipment on claims or leases, you must ensure that you have the appropriate authorizations in place to carry out those activities. If you carry out any activities without authorization, your drone work may be refused for assessment credit.

### **Special note**

Drone surveys will not be approved to be carried out in the winter. Winter is defined in section 1(1) of the [Placer Mining Land Use Regulation](#):

“winter” means the period of the year during which

- (a) The ground is frozen sufficiently to support a vehicle, other than a low ground pressure vehicle, without rutting or gouging of the surface; and

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(b) There is sufficient amount of snow on the ground to produce a packed base of 10 cm.

#### **Drone survey report requirements**

Reports produced for drone survey work performed must be filed at the same time as the claim or lease renewal application. Reports submitted must satisfy the report requirements in Section D of the schedule. The [assessment report checklist information sheet](#) lists these requirements.

Costs associated with drone survey work are not pre-approved and are subject to approval by the mining recorder once the work has been filed. The mining recorder may approve the costs in full, or any portion of the costs at their discretion. The mining recorder will require, when filing drone work for assessment credit, copies of receipts and invoices, a completed survey report and a statement of expenditures that includes a full breakdown of the costs.

Due to the digital-specific requirements of drone survey reports, you need to [submit reports online](#) prior to filing the drone work for assessment credit. At time of filing for assessment credit, the mining recorder will need to be notified that this has been completed, so the report can be accessed via the Yukon Geological Survey.

#### **FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT:**

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