Alert Five Productions

Drone Dock Evaluation Checklist

Use this worksheet during a site walk or supplier review. Mark Yes when you can verify the item, No when it cannot be met, Needs review when evidence is missing, and Not applicable where warranted. In Observations, record what you checked, remaining gaps and who will follow up.

This worksheet supports preliminary site screening. Installation design, safety acceptance, certification and operating authorization require their own reviews. Confirm the applicable requirements with qualified specialists and authorities before installation or flight.

Site or project reference

Assessment date

1. Mission and operating environment

Mission requirements

Record priority missions, coverage, dispatch windows, payload and the data or response each flight must provide.

Status

□ Yes □ No □ Needs review □ Not applicable

Observations

Operating conditions

Identify routine and exceptional conditions, including day or night, traffic, public activity and whether the planned mission requires BVLOS operations.

Status

□ Yes □ No □ Needs review □ Not applicable

Observations

2. Site access and physical suitability

Footprint and access

Measure the dock footprint, delivery route and service space. Confirm surface stability, anchoring and access rights with the site owner. Engineering and local review.

Status

□ Yes □ No □ Needs review □ Not applicable

Observations

Clearances and obstacles

Map trees, utility lines, structures and vehicle movements around the proposed site. Compare launch, recovery and service clearances with supplier requirements. Engineering review where needed.

Status

□ Yes □ No □ Needs review □ Not applicable

Observations

3. Aircraft, dock and installation

System compatibility

Verify the proposed aircraft, payload, batteries, charging system and software versions against the supplier’s supported configurations.

Status
□ Yes □ No □ Needs review □ Not applicable

Observations

Installation constraints

Obtain mounting, load, grounding and enclosure requirements. Compare them with the proposed foundation or structure and identify warranty constraints. Engineering review.

Status
□ Yes □ No □ Needs review □ Not applicable

Observations

4. Electrical supply and backup

Supply and isolation

Have a qualified electrical reviewer verify the available supply, circuit and disconnect location against manufacturer requirements and applicable code. Electrical and local authority review.

Status
□ Yes □ No □ Needs review □ Not applicable

Observations

Outage and recovery

Record which loads require backup, the standby duration the operation needs and how the system returns to a known safe state after power is restored. Electrical review.

Status
□ Yes □ No □ Needs review □ Not applicable

Observations

5. Command, control and network

Connectivity and fallback

Survey command-and-control coverage for the proposed operating area and backhaul at the dock. Record service gaps, outage alerts and the proposed fallback for each link. Network specialist review.

Status
□ Yes □ No □ Needs review □ Not applicable

Observations

Network and data security

Confirm who manages network access, credentials, updates and logs. Review segmentation, data destinations and remote vendor support with the organization’s IT security owner.

Status
□ Yes □ No □ Needs review □ Not applicable

Observations

6. Weather and drainage

Environmental exposure

Compare local wind, temperatures, precipitation and exposure to dust, salt or icing with the aircraft and dock limits. Identify who monitors conditions and can suspend operations.

Status

□ Yes □ No □ Needs review □ Not applicable

Observations

Water and site drainage

Inspect runoff, flood exposure, snow accumulation and water entry around the proposed location. Confirm where diverted water will go. Engineering or local review as applicable.

Status

□ Yes □ No □ Needs review □ Not applicable

Observations

7. Safety and physical security

People and property

Identify workers, bystanders, vehicles and nearby property affected by dock operations. Review access separation, signage and emergency isolation with the site safety lead.

Status

□ Yes □ No □ Needs review □ Not applicable

Observations

Site security

Identify who can open or service the dock. Check barriers, tamper detection, access logging and how unauthorized access or equipment damage will be reported.

Status

□ Yes □ No □ Needs review □ Not applicable

Observations

8. Airspace and permissions

Operating authority

Have a qualified reviewer confirm operating authority, airspace limits and required approvals. For public-aircraft BVLOS, verify the Part 91 waiver and any required separate airspace authorization. Regulatory review.

Status

□ Yes □ No □ Needs review □ Not applicable

Observations

Site permissions

Confirm site owner consent and identify any permits, local approvals or facility restrictions. Record each decision owner, approval status and evidence still needed. Local authority review.

Status

□ Yes □ No □ Needs review □ Not applicable

Observations

9. Maintenance and emergency access

Serviceability

Walk the service route with maintainers. Confirm safe working space, equipment handling, parts access and who is responsible for scheduled and corrective maintenance.

Status
□ Yes □ No □ Needs review □ Not applicable

Observations

Emergency access

Review how responders reach and isolate the site during an equipment fault, fire or site closure. Confirm access controls and emergency contacts with the site safety lead. Local authority review where applicable.

Status
□ Yes □ No □ Needs review □ Not applicable

Observations

10. Dispatch, crew and ongoing support

Dispatch and procedures

Walk through request, launch decision, supervision, data handoff and exception escalation with dispatch and crew. Identify missing instructions and unclear responsibilities.

Status
□ Yes □ No □ Needs review □ Not applicable

Observations

Readiness and ongoing support

Identify training, commissioning checks, support coverage and periodic reviews. Assign an owner and target date to each unresolved item before deciding whether to proceed.

Status
□ Yes □ No □ Needs review □ Not applicable

Observations

For U.S. Part 107 operations, see the FAA's Part 107 waiver guidance and airspace authorization guidance. For eligible public-aircraft operations, see the FAA's Public Safety Toolkit for Part 91 BVLOS guidance.