

US Foreign Drone Ban





What
Happened?

December 22, 2025: A Major Shift in U.S. Drone Policy

Key Action

The FCC added foreign -produced drones and critical drone components to its Covered List.

The action followed a federal national security determination issued through an Executive Branch review.

What the Covered List Does

Prevents new FCC equipment authorizations for covered products.

Without FCC authorization, new drone models generally cannot be imported, marketed, or sold in the United States.

Who Is Impacted?

Commonly discussed manufacturers include DJI and Autel Robotics.

The rule extends beyond specific companies and applies broadly to foreign -produced UAS and certain critical components.





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What Does it
Mean?

Immediate Industry Impact



Existing Drones

Existing authorized drones remain legal to own and operate.

Previously approved models can continue to be used in commercial agriculture, research, and public safety operations.

New Products

New foreign - produced drone models face significant barriers to entering the U.S. market.

Manufacturers requiring new FCC approvals may be unable to launch future products without an exemption or security determination.



Agricultural Concerns

Limited availability of new spray drone platforms.

Supply chain uncertainty.

Higher equipment costs.

Limited domestic drone manufacturing capacity.

Questions regarding replacement parts, service support, and long-term fleet planning.



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What's
Next ?

Future Outlook

Likely Outcomes

Blue UAS Cleared List —FCC-exempt through Jan 2027.

Domestic end products (65%+ U.S. content) —exempt through Jan 2027.

Conditional Approvals —11 systems approved (incl. ag spray); expire Dec 2026.

FAA Part 108 (BVLOS) —final rule pending; compliance shifts to orgs.

Watch Dates

Dec 31, 2026: All Conditional Approvals expire

Jan 1, 2027: Blue UAS and Buy American exemptions lapse absent further DoW action

Jan 1, 2029: Firmware and software updates for existing authorized fleets protected

Bottom Line:

Existing fleets remain operational, but the decisions made over the next several years will likely define the future of agricultural drone adoption in the United States.

