

Kisan Drone Operator

ASCI had developed a 'futuristic' Qualification "**KISAN Drone Operator**" which was approved by NSQC almost 2 years back, on 31st March 2022. Since then, several changes in regulations by DGCA, establishment of limited nos. of Remote Pilot Training Organisations (RPTOs) and challenges on ground have necessitated revision of the QP.

With an increased focus on the usage of drones in multiple areas, especially Agriculture, the Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare (MoA&FW) has also formulated customized module & scheme guideline for "NAMO Lakhpati Didi" Scheme for SHG women members.

NSDC and various other State Skill Missions also intend to promote skilling for the use of Drones, in multiple roles / tasks. For the use of drones in Agriculture, targets on the qualification "KISAN DRONE OPERATOR" have been allocated to PMKKS and other Institutions. As per the regulator in India, Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA), training for obtaining 'Remote Pilot Certificate' (RPC) i.e.; a certificate to operate a drone can be obtained only through an RPTO, However, as PMKKS or State Skill Mission Centres were not DGCA approved Remote Pilot Training Organisation" (RPTO) therefore, are not permitted / in a position to undertake drone basic flying & application training till such time they are RPTOs.

With the ground challenges for rolling out of the training on the qualification, ASCI proposed a revision to the QP and a revised QP as '**Kisan Drone Operator AGR/Q1006, V3.0**,' had recently been submitted for the approval of NCVET with the following changes:

1. Revised version 3.0 has Notional Hours as 270 h (30 hrs for mandatory DGCA syllabus plus 150 hrs Agriculture training, with 90 hrs of OJT.
2. NSQF Level of the new version is "Level 3" instead of "Level 4" earlier.
3. Training would be conducted in 2 locations mentioned as below:
 - a. At DGCA authorized RPTO, where NOS, AGR/N1039 (covering the mandatory DGCA Syllabus) shall be undertaken, trainer at RPTO will be a **DGCA approved / certified Instructor**, as per DGCA guidelines.
 - b. At Training Centre (TC), the candidates shall be given training only on Agriculture related NOS namely, AGR/N1030, AGR/N1020 and DGT/VSQ/N0101 (generic Employability Skills) including OJT. **Trainer at TC shall be a graduate holding a Remote Pilot Certificate (RPC).**
4. The nominated graduate degree holder trainers from TC (holding Remote Pilot certificate) would undergo Training of Trainers (ToT) through Agriculture Skill Council of India (ASCI) on the agriculture related NOS mentioned in point 3 b

Note: The first batch of 10-day ToT was created in v 2.0 but their assessment and certification will be carried out in newer version. The candidates who have qualified are being certified in the new version.

5. Post completion of training on all NOSs of the qualification at RPTO and TC, assessment on the QP shall be organized by ASCI where the TC will be required to submit the proof of the candidate having completed the training on NOS, AGR / N1039 (DGCA Syllabus) at RPTO.
6. The OJT may be undertaken at the TC or any facility which provides such opportunity
7. Under the proposed new assessment criteria, **assessment at the Training Centre will not cover the assessment of NOS (AGR/N1039) covering the mandatory DGCA syllabus**, training and assessment for this NOS will be undertaken at the RPTO itself, as per DGCA rules/ regulations.

8. Prior to obtaining affiliation on the Job Role of 'Kisan Drone Operator' the Training Partner (TP) shall submit proof of association / MOU / agreement with a DGCA approved RPTO for facilitating the training on DGCA Mandatory syllabus. (This is a mandatory requirement to affiliate any TC for undertaking training on qualification Kisan Drone Operator)

9. 'Kisan Drone Operator AGR/Q1006, V3.0,' i.e. Latest version has been approved by NCVET and now available for enrolment of candidates and batch creation in Skill India Digital and all batches need to be created only in this version. The TOT would also be organised on this new version and corresponding guidelines.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQ)

1. Can the training for farmer drone operator be conducted at A&A centers, or are there specific guidelines issued by SSC?

Ans: Recently revised Kisan Drone Operator AGR/Q1006, V 3.0 shall be conducted in 2 specified locations, at RPTO, where the mandatory DGCA syllabus mapped to AGR/N1039 NOS will be undertaken and at Training Centre (TC), where the training on balance Agriculture related NOS can be conducted.

2. Is training for Kisan Drone Operators only permitted at DGCA-recognized RPTOs? Will we need to get each training center recognized by DGCA?

Ans : As above. With the revised QP, TC undertaking training only for Agriculture related aspects is not required to be a RPTO.

3. The process of obtaining DGCA recognition for RPTOs involves several formalities and may take considerable time.

Ans : The DGCA conditions are Non- Negotiable. The regulations imposed by DGCA are to be followed in letter and spirit, which take time.

4. The job role of Kisan Drone Operator required 390 hours of training, while drone pilot license training at RPTOs typically lasts only 3-5 days. How should we manage this discrepancy?

Ans: The revised version has been reduced to 270 hours of training which includes DGCA mandated syllabus (NSQF Level of QP reduced to 3). Successful completion of the DGCA syllabus, undertaken at RPTOs, will provide the candidate a Remote Pilot Certificate (RPC) mapped to specific drone (Small/Medium as held at RPTO). To ensure that the candidate can operate the drone for Agriculture related tasks of spraying with Small/medium category drone, 2 NOS namely AGR/1030 and AGR/1020 have been developed.

5. Should domain training be conducted at the training centre location, with drone flying training conducted at a nearby RPTO?

Ans: Permission to split the training at 2 locations i.e.; Training on mandatory DGCA syllabus at RPTO and balance 'agriculture' aspects at TC has been approved by NCVET.

6. What are the equipment / tools required at the TC with the revision of QP.?

Ans: List of tools / equipment are mentioned in the Model Curriculum of the revised QP.

Note: For any query related to affiliation and standards, teams can reach out to Mr Ravi affiliation@asci-india.com and Mr Srikanth standards@asci-india.com respectively