

Notes from AMA 24 April 2023 Video

The 24 April [AMA Leadership Roundtable - Remote ID Updates](#) YouTube video in the following link was very informative with regards to FRIA, RID, sanctioned events, and night flying.

[AMA Leadership Roundtable - Remote ID Updates - YouTube](#)

FRIA:

- AMA submitted almost 700 FRIA applications to FAA to date (a little more than 25% of AMA clubs).
- Current backlog for AMA review prior to submitting to FAA is two months due to club charter renewal.
- FAA has not started the FRIA review process:
 - EPA environmental and DHS security approval required before FAA approves individual FRIA.
 - The EPA environmental review is called a Programmatic Environmental Assessment (PEA). Draft PEA is 48 pages plus 62 pages of appendixes and includes the following review areas:
 - Air Quality
 - *Biological Resources (Wildlife)*
 - Climate
 - Department of Transportation Act, Section 4(f) Resources
 - *Noise and Compatible Land Use*
 - Visual Effects (including Light Emissions)
 - AMA tried to head off PEA for individual FRIA applications by using several club test cases to determine typical environmental impact for a model aircraft field. The impact was found to be insignificant. Based on that, it does not appear EPA will need to approve individual FRIA applications.
 - FAA should start approval process after details of EPA/PEA review are approved (late May).
- AMA expects first FAA FRIA approvals in June.
- FAA and AMA will e-mail notification of Approval/Disapproval to the PPOC (J. Watkins for NCRCC).
- AMA clubs will be informed when secondary FRIA applications can be submitted – tentatively by the end of May.
- Some discussion of temporary FRIAs for events, but process needs to be developed.
- Not in video, but FRIA must be renewed every 48 months, with renewal application submitted 120 days prior to expiration date.
- Permission to use property is not a factor in FAA FRIA approval and this is not checked by FAA.

RID:

- Cost and availability:
 - As of the end of April, only four broadcast RID modules have been approved by the FAA.
 - Cost ranges from \$177 to \$299.
 - All but one is manufactured outside the US, and the US manufactured RID module is not yet available.
 - There continues to be discussion that \$50 RID modules will be available by mid-Sep, but no details. Advanced info for one RID module indicates it will be under \$100.
 - Andy Argenio is heading the RID technical committee, so may have more details.
- RID modules are projected to weigh 11-16g (around 1/2-oz), which is enough to affect smaller aircraft with limited internal space and weight carrying capability.
- RID implementation deadline of 16 September 2023:
 - FRIA and RID are not proceeding as rapidly as planned. AMA position communicated to FAA is the FAA needs to speed up the process.

- In the event it appears deadlines cannot be met, Tyler Dobbs (AMA Senior Director of Government Affairs) does not think FAA will push back date of RID requirement.
- If FRIAs are not approved by the deadline, all model aircraft and drones weighing more than 0.55-lb would have to be equipped with Standard or Broadcast RID modules by the 16 Sep deadline.
- If RID broadcast modules are not available by the 16 Sep deadline and FAA does not move the deadline, flying of R/C aircraft over 0.55-lb without RID would technically be illegal. Dobbs thinks FAA will decline to enforce laws.
- AMA will not require use of RID at AMA clubs and will have no effect on AMA club insurance.

AMA Sanctioned Events:

- We can request up to 700-ft AGL altitude limit (floor of Class G airspace at NCRCC) for sanctioned events.
- CDs should understand the process, and NCRCC should probably request higher altitudes for all our events.
- The club should file FAA Notice to Air Missions (NOTAM) for AMA approved sanctioned events at higher altitudes, but the process was not detailed during the video.

Other:

- Altitudes:
 - AMA/FAA working towards requests for higher altitudes at club fixed flying sites outside controlled airspace, but the process originally thought to take six months has taken more than four years and is still not complete.
- FAA or LEO RID enforcement:
 - AMA wants to be informed of any FAA or LEO enforcement of Remote ID regulations.
- Night Flying:
 - AMA requires members to view AMA night flying document and video before flying at night:

[night-operations \(modelaircraft.org\)](https://www.modelaircraft.org/night-operations)

[AMA_Night_Training.pdf \(modelaircraft.org\)](https://www.modelaircraft.org/AMA_Night_Training.pdf)

What the AMA video didn't discuss:

- No mention of the other Community Based Organizations (CBO) - Flite Test Community Association (FTCA), FPV Freedom Coalition (FPVFC), or STEM+C.
- Flite-Test and FPV Freedom Coalition effort to raise weight limit for RID and registration from 250g to 1kg (0.55-lb to 2.2-lb) in the FAA 2023 reauthorization.