



SAPPHIRE BLUE

DRONE TRAINING & OPERATIONS

RPC - REMOTE PILOT CERTIFICATE TRAINING
Visual Line of Sight – Multi-Rotor



Nelspruit Airport | Hanger No. J1-A | Nelspruit | Mpumalanga | 1201
South Africa | Email: training@sapphireblue.co.za | 082 668 3064

At [Sapphire Blue](#), you'll receive expert training from professionals in both manned and unmanned aviation. Our SACAA (South African Civil Aviation Authority)-accredited course equips you with the knowledge and practical skills needed to earn your South African [Remote Pilot Certificate - Multi-Rotor \(RPC\)](#).

VLOS - Visual Line of Sight refers to a operation where the pilot maintains continuous,unaided [visual contact](#) with the drone throughout the flight. In simple terms – the pilots needs to be able to see the drone. VLOS comes with [legal restrictions](#) with regards to [height and distance](#). With a VLOS rating you can fly a drone up to [400 feet above ground level and 500 meters away](#) from the pilot.

This is your essential [first step](#) toward operating a multi-rotor UAS [commercially](#) under a UAS Operators' Certificate ([UASOC](#)) in South Africa.

Our [RPC course](#) not only covers the required theory for safe drone operations but also goes further by developing key skills in communication, briefing, and leadership. These skills are vital for your success as a professional drone pilot, helping you reach your full potential.

With Sapphire Blue, you'll be prepared not just for the certification, but for a successful career as a commercial drone operator. Our training is always current, meeting SACAA standards and ensuring you're ready for the evolving demands of the industry.

RPC – VLOS – Multi-Rotor - Training Costs

RPC Theory and Practical training – [ZAR 21 350, excl VAT.](#)

If you are already a holder of a valid SACAA PPL / CPL / ATPL you can apply for the shorter Theoretical course and use our

RPC Fast track – Theory & Practical training – ZAR 19 210 excl VAT.

PLEASE NOTE THE FOLLOWING

Entry CAA REQUIREMENTS

- You must be 18 or older at the start of the course.
- A **class 3 aviation medical** certification is required and needs to be presented before commencement of the course. **The cost is not included in the course price.**
- Appointment for the aviation medical can be made with Dr. Frans Fourie in Nelmed Medicross on (013) 755 5000 or Dr. Christine Venter at 12 Peter Graham St, White River 013 751 38 48.
- Enrolment documents will be sent PRIOR to the course and has to be **UPLOADED BY THE STUDENT**. This list will be sent via email on proof of course payment.

What is NOT included?

- The cost of the aviation medical certificate class 3



What does the course include?

Ground School (5 days) - The following subjects are covered:

- Day 01 - Air Law
- Day 02 - Navigation, Flight planning & Field Operations Manual
- Day 03 - Aircraft Technical & General Principles of Flight
- Day 04 - Human Factors & Meteorology
- Day 05 - Restricted Radio Telephony

Every subject is followed by an exam.

A score of 75% or above is required to pass.

Do you already hold a Pilot license? Then you can follow the **Fast-Track course** and only attend the **first three days** of the ground school.

Ground School Course calendar 2025

- January 13/01 – 17/01
- February 10/02 – 14/02
- March 10/03 – 14/03
- April 07/04 – 11/04
- May 05/05 – 09/05
- June 09/06 – 13/06
- July 07/07 – 11/07
- August 04/08 – 08/08
- September 08/09 – 12/09
- October 06/10 – 10/10
- November 17/11 – 21/11
- December 01/12 – 05/12



When any of the above dates don't suit you or you would like to book two or more spots, then we can arrange for a one-on-one course and plan around your availability.

WHAT DOES THE COURSE INCLUDE

Practical Flight Training

- The commencement of the practical training can only start after completion of the above ground school training and successfully passing all the exams, including the restricted radio exam.
- The practical one-on-one training is booked according to your and the instructor's availability and is weather depending. Lessons consist of practical flying instruction on a DJI drone in GPS and Attitude mode.
- The total duration of the practical training will depend on the skills and experience of each student. Availability and weather conditions also need to be considered.



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WHAT DOES THE COURSE INCLUDE



- Operations Manual development + review
- Course study manual + pilot checklists
- All exams for ground school (first attempt only)
- 3-month access to Ground school Aero App to study for the Restricted radio exam
- Ongoing support for Sapphire Blue graduates
- RPC Completion Certificate
- Skill test with a certified DRE (first attempt only)
- RPC application with CAA
- CAA fee

RPC COURSE OVERVIEW

After completion of the **theory training** and successfully **passing all exams**, the student can continue with the practical training.

During the training the student will need to **Complete a Location/Field Operations Manual**. This manual will serve as your guideline for the skill test. It needs to be done and complete 7 days prior to the recommendation flight.

When the **practical training** and the Field operations manual is finished and approved by the Chief Flight Instructor, the student will do a recommendation flight. This will conclude the Practical Training.

Final part in obtaining is a **skills test** with a Designated Remote Examiner. This needs to be conducted within **90 days after completion** of the theoretical exams.

After successful completion of the flight test, **Sapphire Blue** will issue a completion Certificate, following this will **apply for the RPC** to the CAA on behalf of the student.

Depending on the practical flying skills of the student, the whole program can take between 4-8 weeks for completion.



HOW TO SECURE YOU COURSE BOOKING

Once availability is confirmed, a contract and the invoice will be sent. To secure your spot in the course, a 50% deposit is required.

Complete balance of payment no later than 14 DAYS PRIOR to the commencement of the course.



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BECOME PART OF THE SAPPHIRE BLUE FAMILY



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