

Update: Drone Use in Federally Funded Projects ^[1]

October 7, 2025 by [Staff](#) ^[2]

New federal rules under FAR 52.240-1 affect how drones (unmanned aircraft systems, UAS) can be purchased and used in federally funded projects. The rule prohibits drones and related components made by “covered foreign entities,” such as DJI and Autel Robotics, as listed in SAM.gov.

While the interim rule took effect in November 2024, the most important date for our university is December 22, 2025. After this date, restricted drones may not be used in federally funded research or projects, even if they were purchased earlier. Drones from U.S. or allied manufacturers remain permitted, and restricted drones may still be used for non-federal purposes.

For more information, including a link to SAM.gov and the American Security Drone Act-Covered Foreign Entity List, [please see the compliance guide](#) ^[3].

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