



Secure Drone Procurement Guidance: Blue UAS and Green UAS

In December 2023, the [American Security Drone Act](#) was passed and signed into law as part of the National Defense Authorization Act. In January 2024, the FBI and CISA released a [joint memo](#) on cybersecurity guidance for unmanned aircraft systems (UAS) for critical infrastructure.

Since then, federal agencies, state and local agencies, and private industry conducting sensitive missions have increasingly focused on purchasing secure drones. However, both public and private entities face challenges in determining which regulations, standards, or guidance they must or should abide by in their procurement processes.

The lack of clarity has led federal agencies, commercial entities, state and local governments to default to the Defense Innovation Unit's (DIU) Blue UAS Cleared List as guidance or a standard. However, DIU has always intended for Blue UAS to provide technology solutions for the U.S. Department of Defense (DOD), as called for by the policy establishing the Blue UAS List.

About Blue UAS

DIU's Blue UAS effort is an effort to curate, maintain, and improve a robust roster of policy-approved commercial UAS technology that is compliant with the FY 2020 and FY 2023 National Defense Authorization Acts (NDAA).

Blue UAS is intended to meet the needs of DOD users. DIU does not assess UAS that will not be used to accomplish DOD objectives. Congress has not mandated or provided funding to DIU to take on the responsibility of assessing all commercial sector UAS and components that could serve the needs of all government agencies.

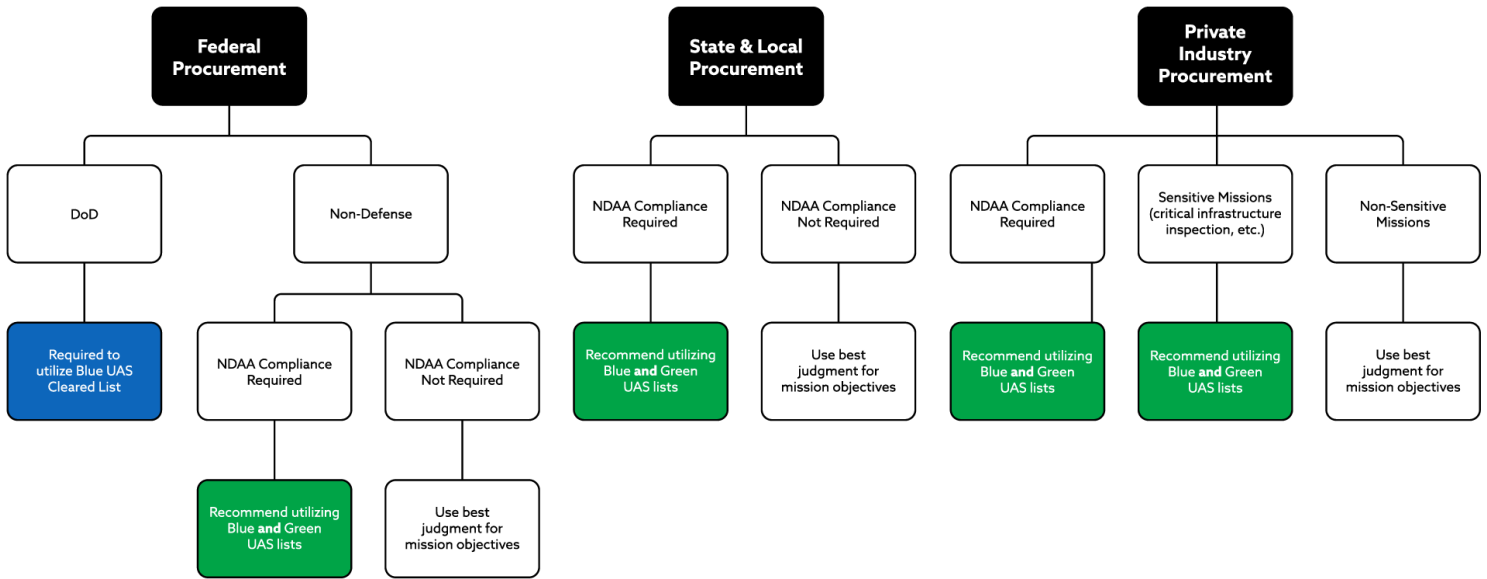
About Green UAS

In close collaboration with DIU, the Association for Uncrewed Vehicle Systems International (AUVSI) provides Green UAS as a solution to fill the gaps between the Blue UAS Cleared List and drones that meet non-DOD needs. AUVSI's goal is to assess and certify additional platforms and components beyond those on the Blue UAS list as secure, widening the offering of secure, vetted drones available for procurement by non-DOD agencies.

The AUVSI Green UAS helps to secure UAS for the rest of the non-DoD market, to include other federal agencies. Green UAS builds upon DIU's Blue UAS program, while not precluding the ability of any company that obtains Green UAS certification to also seek out Blue UAS certification.

The Green UAS program mirrors Blue requirements for the certification process and also expands upon it, including a Remote Operations and Connectivity assessment that has become increasingly important across use cases.

Secure UAS Procurement Guidance



Security Assessments: Blue UAS vs Green UAS

Consideration	DIU BlueUAS	AUVSI GreenUAS
Focus	DoD Certified Solutions	Commercial and Non-Defense Certification
Application Process	Requires a DoD Sponsor	Open to all
NDA A Compliance	Provides NDA A Compliance Verification	Provides NDA A Compliance Verification
GSA Inclusion	Yes	Not yet
Remote Operations & Connectivity	Out of scope for certification	Verified during certification
Corporate Cyber Hygiene	Out of scope for certification	Verified during certification
Product & Device Security	Verified during certification	Verified during certification
Supply Chain Risk Management	Verified during certification	Verified during certification

Learn more about [Blue UAS from DIU](#) and [Green UAS from AUVSI](#).

Contact the DIU Blue UAS team at blueuas@diu.mil and the AUVSI Green UAS team at greenuas@auvsi.org