



Sherpa 1.5 NDAA UAS - Only

# NDAA Compliance & Blue UAS Frequently Asked Questions

For Facility Managers | Property Owners | Government & Military Installations

If you manage a government facility, military installation, or commercial property subject to federal procurement rules, you may have questions about whether drone cleaning services are permitted on your site. This document answers the most common questions we receive, in plain language, without technical jargon.

## SECTION 1: THE BASICS

### Q1: What is NDAA?

NDAA stands for the National Defense Authorization Act. It is an annual federal law that governs U.S. defense spending and national security policy.

For drone procurement, the relevant section is Section 889, which prohibits federal agencies and their contractors from purchasing equipment that contains components made by certain Chinese technology companies flagged as national security risks.

The five prohibited manufacturers are:

- Huawei Technologies
- ZTE Corporation
- Hytera Communications
- Hangzhou Hikvision Digital Technology
- Dahua Technology

Drones that contain cameras, radios, or chips from these companies — or their subsidiaries — are not permitted for use on U.S. government or military installations.

### Q2: What does NDAA compliance mean for a drone?

An NDAA-compliant drone is one that has been verified to contain zero components from the five prohibited manufacturers listed above.

This is not a government-issued certification — it is a manufacturer's commitment, backed by a Bill of Materials (BOM) audit, that every part in the drone was sourced from approved suppliers.

NDAA compliance is the minimum requirement to legally operate a drone at most U.S. federal facilities, military bases, and government-contracted job sites.

### Q3: What is the Blue UAS list?

The Blue UAS (Unmanned Aircraft Systems) list is a curated list of drone platforms approved by the Defense Innovation Unit (DIU) a branch of the U.S. Department of Defense.

Being on the Blue UAS list means a drone has been independently vetted by DoD for:

- NDAA compliance - no prohibited components
- Cybersecurity - data handling and transmission security
- Supply chain integrity - verified sourcing

The Blue UAS list provides a higher level of assurance than a manufacturer's self-declaration. For sensitive government and military environments, this list is often used as the procurement standard.

### Q4: What is the difference between NDAA compliance and Blue UAS?

|                               | NDAA Compliant                                   | Blue UAS Listed                                        |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Who verifies it?</b>       | Manufacturer self-declaration with BOM audit     | U.S. Department of Defense (DIU) — independent review  |
| <b>What does it cover?</b>    | No prohibited components (NDAA Section 889)      | NDAA compliance + cybersecurity + supply chain vetting |
| <b>When is it required?</b>   | Most federal facilities and government contracts | Higher-security environments, DoD-specific procurement |
| <b>Is it a certification?</b> | No - it is a verified self-declaration           | Yes - official DoD designation                         |

Both are important. NDAA compliance is the baseline. Blue UAS is the gold standard for sensitive government and military sites.

## SECTION 2: LUCID BOTS & THE SHERPA DRONE

### Q5: Is the Lucid Bots Sherpa drone NDAA compliant?

Yes, specifically the Sherpa 1.5 NDAA UAS configuration. Lucid Bots sells two versions of the Sherpa 1.5: a standard commercial version and the Sherpa 1.5 NDAA UAS, which is purpose-built for government and military use. Only the NDAA UAS configuration is compliant. If you are working with a contractor, confirm they own the Sherpa 1.5 NDAA UAS specifically, not the standard Sherpa 1.5. The Bill of Materials (BOM) for the NDAA UAS configuration has been audited to verify zero components from the five NDAA-prohibited manufacturers.

Specifically, the Sherpa contains no components from:

- Huawei Technologies
- ZTE Corporation
- Hytera Communications
- Hangzhou Hikvision Digital Technology
- Dahua Technology (or any subsidiary or affiliate of these entities)

NDAA compliance documentation is available per unit upon request. It is not automatically included in every shipment, but we can provide it for any unit when required for your facility.

#### **Q6: Is Sherpa on the Blue UAS approved list?**

The Blue UAS pathway is documented and on file for the Sherpa platform. The Blue UAS designation process is ongoing and our compliance documentation is structured to support this pathway.

If your facility specifically requires Blue UAS listed equipment, please contact us directly so we can provide you with the most current status and documentation relevant to your procurement requirements.

**Note:** Blue UAS designation is managed by the U.S. Defense Innovation Unit (DIU). The current approved list can be viewed at [diu.mil](https://diu.mil). Lucid Bots can provide supporting documentation for your procurement officer upon request.

#### **Q7: What kind of drone is the Sherpa, and what does it do?**

The Sherpa is a professional-grade exterior cleaning drone designed for commercial and industrial properties. It is not a surveillance drone and does not carry cameras for data collection.

The Sherpa is used to:

- Apply soft-wash cleaning chemicals (sodium hypochlorite + surfactant) to exterior surfaces
- Clean building facades, roofs, hangars, and large structures safely from the ground
- Eliminate the need for lifts, scaffolding, rope access, and the associated safety risks

The operator remains on the ground throughout the operation. The drone does not land on or enter the structure being cleaned.

#### **Q8: Does the Sherpa drone record or transmit video or data?**

The Sherpa's onboard camera is used for operator situational awareness and flight control, not for surveillance or data collection.

The Sherpa does not:

- Store footage on external servers
- Transmit imagery to third parties
- Perform mapping, reconnaissance, or area scanning

If your facility has specific data handling requirements or security protocols, we are happy to provide additional technical documentation to your information security team.

## SECTION 3: OPERATING AT SECURE & GOVERNMENT FACILITIES

### Q9: Can the Sherpa drone be used at a military base or Air Force installation?

Yes — with appropriate approvals in place. Drone operations on military installations require coordination with the installation's airspace authority, and operators must comply with local flight authorization procedures.

From a compliance standpoint, the Sherpa is built to meet NDAA requirements, which is the primary federal standard for drone equipment at government and military facilities.

Lucid Bots can provide:

- NDAA compliance documentation for the unit
- Operator credentials and FAA certifications
- Insurance documentation
- A pre-operational briefing for your security or safety officer

**Note:** Every Sherpa 1.5 NDAA UAS operator holds an FAA Part 107 Remote Pilot Certificate. The operator can coordinate directly with your installation's airspace management office.

### Q10: What approvals does a facility need to grant before drone cleaning can begin?

Each facility is different, but typically the following are needed before operations begin:

- Site access approval for the contractor's crew and equipment
- Airspace authorization (FAA LAANC or a Certificate of Authorization for controlled airspace)
- Facility security clearance or visitor credentialing if required
- Review and approval of our operational safety plan and insurance certificate

The contractor handles all airspace authorization and operational planning and works with your facility team to make the process straightforward.

### Q11: What questions should a facility manager or contracting officer ask before approving drone cleaning?

Here are the questions you should ask any contractor operating a Sherpa 1.5 NDAA UAS at your facility, and the answers you should expect:

| Question to Ask                                     | Lucid Bots Answer                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
|-----------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Is the drone NDAA Section 889 compliant?            | Yes. BOM audited. Documentation available per unit upon request.                                                                                                                                                                              |
| Is the operator FAA Part 107 certified?             | Require the contractor to provide a current FAA Part 107 Remote Pilot Certificate before work begins. This is the federal certification required to fly commercially in the United States and is the contractor's responsibility to maintain. |
| Does the drone store or transmit surveillance data? | No. The drone camera is for operator situational awareness only. No imagery is transmitted or stored externally.                                                                                                                              |

|                                                |                                                                                                                                                                                 |
|------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>What chemicals are used?</b>                | Sodium hypochlorite (bleach) and surfactant, standard soft-wash chemistry used by commercial cleaning contractors. Safety Data Sheets available.                                |
| <b>What happens if the drone has an issue?</b> | Operator retains full manual control of the drone if GPS is lost. Failsafe are in place if signal is lost. The drone will land right where it's operating if no RC is regained. |
| <b>What is your insurance coverage?</b>        | Commercial general liability and aviation liability insurance will be provided by the operator.                                                                                 |

## SECTION 4: NEXT STEPS

### Q12: How do we get started?

If you are a facility manager or contracting officer evaluating a contractor who owns the Sherpa 1.5 NDAA UAS, here is what to expect:

- **Initial conversation.** Request documentation. Ask the contractor for the signed Section 889 Attestation for their specific unit, their FAA Part 107 credentials, and proof of insurance.
- **Documentation package.** Review and approve. Your procurement or security team reviews the documentation package. Lucid Bots can provide additional supporting documentation if needed.
- **Site coordination.** Coordinate airspace access. The contractor works with your installation airspace authority to obtain the necessary authorization before any flight operations begin.
- **Operation.** Work begins. The contractor executes the cleaning job safely and efficiently, with the operator remaining on the ground throughout the entire operation.

If you have questions about the Sherpa 1.5 NDAA UAS or need additional compliance documentation, contact Lucid Bots directly and we will support your evaluation process.

## Have more questions?

Contact Lucid Bots Customer Success  
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