

Compass ehf.  
Grundarstíg 19  
101 Reykjavík  
Iceland

Reykjavík, 23. september 2024  
UST202409-113/P.V.B.  
09.04.00

**Subject: Permit to fly a drone at the beach at Stapi and Hellnar**

The Environment Agency of Iceland has received an application from Compass ehf., dated September 11<sup>th</sup> 2024, for permit to fly a drone at the beach at Stapi and Hellnar and filming in Snæfellsjökull national park.

The beach at Stapi and Hellnar is protected as a nature reserve cf. regulation no. 284/1988. Disturbance to geological formations, vegetation and wild animal life in the protected area is prohibited. Operating an unmanned aircraft/drone within the protected area is subjected to a permit from the Environment Agency of Iceland.

Snæfellsjökull National park is protected as a national park cf. regulation no. 935/2021. Operating an unmanned aircraft within the national park is subjected to a permit from the Environment Agency of Iceland according to art. 7 in the Regulation during nesting season April 15<sup>th</sup> -september 15<sup>th</sup>. Permission must be obtained from the Environment Agency of Iceland for organized events and projects that need facilities, labour force or use of equipment within the protected area such as filming, at events and ceremonies.

**Description of the project:**

Filming in Snæfellsjökull national park would take place at Malarrif, Svörtuloft and Öndverðarnesviti. At the beach at Stapi and Hellnar drone would be used to photograph the bird cliffs at both Stapi and Hellnar. It would be a hovering drone from a distance, not a moving drone for the shots needed, and attention and a safe distance would be made to not disturb the birds during the shoot. Purpose of the filming would be to film nature. Filming would take place in three days in the period of October 7<sup>th</sup> - 13<sup>th</sup> 2024. Number of employees would be five to seven.

**Impact assessment:**

The Environment Agency of Iceland considers the project not likely to have negative impact on conservation value of the sites. The drone flights might have negative impact on birdlife

and visitors experience at the beach at Stapi and Hellnar but the impact can be reduced if conditions of the permit are followed.

**Conclusions and conditions:**

After revision of the application, regulations for the sites and management plans it is concluded that no permission is needed to film in Snæfellsjökull national park in the period requested if the flight does not disturb wildlife and other visitors experience.

The Environment Agency of Iceland hereby grants Compass ehf. permission on its behalf to fly a drone at the beach at Stapi and Hellnar as described above on the period of October 7<sup>th</sup> -13<sup>th</sup> 2024 on the following conditions:

- Keep this letter with you on site during the project. The permit conditions should be introduced to the staff of the project before work begins.
- The applicant shall inform rangers in the area about their arrival and departure. This is to be done 24 hours before entering the area and again before leaving it.
- If the project dates or description changes the Environment Agency shall be notified as soon as possible.
- Crew members should always stay on authorized paths/tracks/roads.
- If any complications occur during the project, please contact the ranger or the Environment Agency of Iceland, tel. +354 591 2000.
- If the material is meant for public viewing it must be noted in the video/subtext that permission from the Environment Agency was obtained for the filming/photography.
- An unmanned aircraft should never be flown in close proximity to people. Please take precaution not to disturb people's experience, their safety or personal privacy nor the general peace of the protected areas being filmed.
- According to Icelandic law it is forbidden to fly close to cliffs where birds nest. An unmanned aircraft should never be flown near animals or birds, neither in nesting areas nor during nesting season or any other seasonal time when animals or bird habitats are considered vulnerable.
- Flight time should be kept to a minimum and flight should be avoided during the area's busiest times of the day.
- If the use of unmanned aircraft causes disturbance to wildlife in the area, its use should be ceased at once.
- The conductor of the unmanned aircraft is responsible for the aircraft within the protected area. This includes taking responsibility of any possible risk of harm to people, fauna and nature and leaving no permanent marks on the site in question. Should the aircraft crash, all components from it must be collected and removed from the area.
- It is forbidden to fly drones next to bird cliffs in a closer proximity than 50 meters, if birds are in the cliffs.
- If falcons or eagles are seen in the area, it is not allowed to fly the drone there.

If the licensee causes damage to nature, according to art. 87 in the Nature Conservation Act no. 60/2013, the Environment Agency of Iceland can, according to the Nature Conservation Act, f.e. order the licensee to fix damage to nature and vegetation and/or stop the project.

The Environment Agency of Iceland can according to art. 89 in the Nature Conservation Act no. 60/2013 change conditions of the permit, add new conditions or withdraw the permit in order to prevent damage to nature if environmental conditions change.

According to art 89. in the Nature Conservation Act no. 60/2013 the Environment Agency can withdraw the permit if conditions of the permit are not complied to.

Unmanned aircraft should take off and land in a safe distance from other visitors according to regulation 990/2017 on unmanned aircrafts.

The usage of a drone shall be according to regulation no. 990/2017 on the operation of remotely piloted aircraft (<https://www.icetra.is/aviation/drones/>).

Please note that according to the regulation all drones used for commercial flight need to be registered at the Icelandic Transport Authority.

**Permission fee:**

Environment Agency of Iceland charges a fee for processing applications for permits in protected areas based on Article 92 of Act no. 61/2013 on Nature Conservation. The fee for constructions, droneflights, cinematography and/or photography is **83.200 ISK** according to art. 29. b. in the agency's tariff no. 1410/2023.

**Supervision:**

The Environment Agency will supervise the project. The supervisor will be a ranger from the Environment Agency.

Sincerely

Hákon Ásgeirsson  
**park manager**

Þórdís Vilhelmína Bragadóttir  
**advisor**