



Within 3 miles**

AMA code requires notification (if fly above 400')

AMA Safety Code item 2(c) says: “Not fly higher than approximately 400 feet above ground level within three (3) miles of an airport without notifying the airport operator.”

Within 5 miles* – Law requires notification

PL112-95 Section 336 / 14 CFR 101.41 lists five criteria for someone to operate as a “model aircraft.” Both say:

“when flown within 5 miles of an airport, the operator of the aircraft provides the airport operator and the airport air traffic control tower (when an air traffic facility is located at the airport) with prior notice of the operation (model aircraft operators flying from a permanent location within 5 miles of an airport should establish a mutually-agreed upon operating procedure with the airport operator and the airport air traffic control tower (when an air traffic facility is located at the airport)). [emphasis added]”

PL112-95 Section 336(b) says: “Nothing in this section shall be construed to limit the authority of the Administrator to pursue enforcement action against persons operating model aircraft who endanger the safety of the national airspace system [emphasis added].”

14 CFR 101.43 says: “No person may operate model aircraft so as to endanger the safety of the national airspace system [emphasis added].”

In the FAA “Interpretation of the Special Rule on Model Aircraft,” on page 13 & 14, it says this:

*“Finally, the statute sets a requirement for model aircraft operating within 5 miles of an airport to notify the airport operator and control tower, where applicable, prior to operating. **If the model aircraft operator provides notice of forthcoming operations which are then not authorized by air traffic or objected to by the airport operator, the FAA expects the model aircraft operator will not conduct the proposed flights. The FAA would consider flying model aircraft over the objections of FAA air traffic or airport operators to be endangering the safety of the NAS** [emphasis added].”*

* Note 9 on bottom of page 13 in FAA’s “Interpretation of the Special Rule on Model Aircraft” says they interpret this to mean statute miles.

** AMA code does not state whether this means statute miles or nautical miles.