Unless specifically exempted, a certificate of registration is required to operate an aircraft in Iowa (in addition to being registered with the FAA).

Iowa residents and businesses must register an aircraft unless it is continuously located and operated beyond the boundaries of the state.

Nonresident owners of aircraft providing intrastate transportation of persons or property for compensation, furnishing services for compensation or providing intrastate transportation of merchandise in Iowa must register their aircraft with the Iowa DOT prior to conducting those operations. Other visitors are exempt from registering their aircraft in Iowa, as long as they are not operated or controlled in the state for more than 30 days a year.

Annual registration fees are based on aircraft age, original manufactured list price and its type of use (personal or business). A one-time 6 percent use tax on the purchase price of aircraft is collected at the time of registration.

Aircraft registration fees (and aviation fuel taxes) pay for aviation programs in Iowa that include airport development projects, the automated weather observing system, runway markings, and windsocks.

It is an aircraft owner’s responsibility to register his/her aircraft in Iowa. Complete information on aircraft registration requirements is available on the Office of Aviation’s website at iowadot.gov/aviation. Aircraft registration applications can be obtained on the website, at local airports or by calling 515-239-1691.

For more information contact:
Office of Aviation
Attn: Aircraft registration
800 Lincoln Way
Ames, IA 50010
Website: www.iowadot.gov/aviation
Phone: 515-239-1691  Fax: 515-233-7983
Email: aircraftregistration@dot.iowa.gov

www.iowadot.gov/aviation