
US Proposes Restrictions on Foreign Military Grade Drone Imports



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WASHINGTON, July 22: The US Federal Communications Commission (FCC) has tentatively approved a proposal to restrict imports of certain foreign-made military-grade drones and critical components, a move widely seen as targeting products from Chinese manufacturers on national security grounds.

If finalized following a 30-day public comment period, the proposed measure would apply only to

selected military-grade drones and key components. The FCC said the restrictions would not affect drones already purchased, while exemptions granted under its December decision would remain valid until January 2028 for specified non-Chinese products.

The proposal excludes drones and components acquired by the US federal government, civilian drones and non-military-grade parts.

In a written notice, the FCC warned that swarm-enabled drones could overwhelm defence systems, conduct persistent surveillance and create complex operational challenges, posing significant risks to public safety and national security.

The commission also said that certain foreign-produced critical components present unacceptable security risks to the United States and its citizens.

Although the FCC did not directly name China, media reports said the proposal primarily targets Chinese-made drones. The move follows last month's decision to prohibit imports of additional telecommunications equipment from several Chinese manufacturers, with that ban taking effect on July 16.