



CAA ARC DATING PROTOCOL

You may be aware of some apparent inconsistencies with the date of newly issued Airworthiness Review Certificates (ARC) as received by glider owners.

If you have received an ARC with an expiry date later than you were expecting there is no need to worry - it is valid. However there are some facts you need to be aware of.

- The ARC has been dated to expire one year from when the CAA approved BGA Airworthiness Review Engineer (ARE) checked your transition pack and signed the recommendation for the issue of an EASA C of A and ARC.
- The original plan was to date the ARC to coincide with the date your inspector signed out the last Annual Inspection (C of A). Due to EU legislation the CAA could not use this date as the inspector was not CAA approved to make the recommendation. That is why the ARE recommendation date is used.
- In most cases the ARE recommendation date is about 2-3 months from when the inspector carried out the annual inspection. Some, for example where there was some correspondence with queries, may have an even later date. That is where the apparent inconsistency comes from.

So we now have a separation between the annual inspection date and ARC expiry date. Please note that this does not mean that you have additional time available between inspections. An annual inspection is an annual inspection. Incidentally, this separation is quite legal for EASA gliders and aeroplanes (and is common practice in the air transport sector).

An important point: to keep your ARC valid, all maintenance must be carried out on time and in accordance with the maintenance programme - BGA GMS maintenance programme (or CAA LAMP for motor gliders & Tugs). Providing the maintenance is completed, whether its an annual inspection or any other maintenance, and if the ARC remains valid, you can continue to fly.

What happens if you anticipated the last annual inspection?

This does not cause any problems, if you anticipated by say 2 months, then the next annual becomes due 14 months from the last one. You can still continue to anticipate the annual inspection doing it ahead of time each year. This does not move the due date but allows some flexibility, it does not mean you can have 14 months between annuals to allow for maintenance planning, if you use the 14 months then the next one becomes due after 12 months. See time-line examples below.

BGA Recommendation;

We recommend that you complete your annual check on time, just as you would have originally planned, and that you renew the ARC at the same time. **Very soon, we will be in a position to explain exactly how you can renew your ARC via the BGA system.**

An ARC can be renewed with up to 90 days anticipation added to the ARC date. You can do the same every year which will allow you to continue to fly the aircraft whilst the ARC paperwork is being processed.

For those few with an excessive separation between ARC and Annual Inspection date, we recommend that you renew the ARC at the same time as the annual inspection. You will get a full 90 days anticipation period added to the ARC date. You will not lose any ARC fee because of this.

There is a potentially helpful bonus to this new dating regime. The BGA GMS maintenance programme allows an extension to the annual inspection by 1 month (with CTO or Quality Manager approval) if this is needed.

Please note however that annual extensions are for unforeseen circumstances and not the norm - maintenance planning is the only sensible way forward.

You can only utilise the extension provision if the ARC is valid for the extension period. It is not possible to apply a 1 month (or part of) extension to the ARC.

