

GLIDER PILOTS LICENCE NOTES

For many years the BGA Gliding Certificate has been the accrediting document issued to and used by British glider pilots. Traditionally the document was issued after the first solo flight, and was endorsed with the 'A' Certificate. There were more certificates to follow, e.g. 'B' certificate for demonstrating left and right turns, and the 'C' certificate for remaining above launch height for 5 minutes or staying airborne for 15 minutes. Over the years, with the introduction of better training methods and higher performance gliders, the certificates are no longer in their original form and the 'C' certificate has disappeared. The BGA Gliding Certificate is still issued after the first solo flight, but the pilot of today will have achieved far more on that one flight than his or her predecessors would have done. The Bronze badge was introduced to bridge the substantial gap between the 'C' and the internationally recognised FAI Silver badge.

Today with more British glider pilots visiting overseas gliding sites there have been occasions where difficulties have occurred because of the differing basis of national regulation. The BGA has therefore taken the opportunity to issue a new accrediting document, designated 'Glider Pilot's Licence'. The minimum qualifying standard is that of the existing BGA Bronze badge plus the Cross-Country Endorsement. This standard is higher than that required by ICAO Annex 1 and therefore meets or exceeds levels of competence required by other national aviation authorities.

The licence is designed to convey to all interested parties such as UK and foreign gliding clubs and other National Aviation Authorities that the holder has followed a UK national syllabus in flying training and ground subjects and has passed formal flight tests and ground examinations carried out by qualified instructors to ensure that he/she meets the requisite standards for the issue of the licence. These standards are intended to ensure a level of competence which allows the holder to undertake solo cross country flights. The holder would be expected to exercise judgement regarding the suitability of weather or terrain for safe flight, and to seek advice before flying in circumstances outside previous experience.

VALIDITY

This licence is only valid if the holder has completed 5 hours P1 in gliders during the previous 12 months. In order to maintain validity the holder must complete 5 hours P1 every twelve months and have this recorded in a log book by an authorised instructor.