

QUALIFYING TO FLY SELF-LAUNCHING SAILPLANES – Oct 2020

This brief replaces the Oct 2017 edition.

The conversion period, with overlap between National requirements and EASA regulations continues. Pilots looking to qualify to fly self-launching sailplanes should add self-launch to an SFCL SPL. The following guidance is based on the regulatory requirement supported by best practice.

Legal

Training and qualification for self-launch under SFCL have an important difference from historic BGA practice: requirements are established in law. The Association is confident that normal gliding instruction can meet, indeed exceed, these, but further care may be needed to ensure that compliance can be demonstrated.

Extract from SFCL.155 SPL Launching methods:

(a) SPL holders shall exercise their privileges only by using those launching methods for which they have completed a specific training either during the training course in accordance with point SFCL.130 or point SFCL.150(e)(1) or during additional training provided by an instructor after the issue of the SPL. This specific training shall consist of the following:

- (1) in the case of winch launch and car launch, a minimum of 10 launches in dual flight instruction, and five solo launches under supervision;
- (2) in the case of aerotow or self-launch, a minimum of five launches in dual flight instruction, and five solo launches under supervision. In the case of self-launch, dual flight instruction may be conducted in TMGs;
- (3) in the case of bungee launch, a minimum of three launches performed in dual flight instruction or solo under supervision; and
- (4) in case of further launching methods, training as required by the competent authority.

(b) The completion of the training as specified in paragraph (a) shall be entered in the logbook of the pilot and signed by the head of training of the ATO or the DTO or the instructor that is responsible for the training, as applicable.

Licence Actions

The CAA does not include launch limitations on SPLs. Instead, Part XII of each licence, 'Ratings, certificates and privileges', notes methods for which the limitation has been removed. Once qualified for a method in accordance with FCL.155, no licence action is necessary, although pilots can ask the Authority to add it (at a cost). BGA office can advise how to request this.

Training

The training requirements are detailed at AMC1 SFCL.155(a)(2) SPL – Launching methods

Instructors:

- CFI's approval to conduct this training
- SPL or LAPL(S) with self-launch privileges, and
- FI(S), and
- hold, or previously held, FI(SLMG) or FI(A) (not BGA MGIR)

Alternative during the conversion period,

- SLMG Class Rating, and
- FI(SLMG) or FI(A) (not BGA MGIR)

BGA Self-launch Training v Oct 2020		Taught	Satis.
Aim	To add self-launch privileges to an SPL		
Air Exercise	Flight Manual review		
	Engine extending and retraction procedures		
	Engine starting and safety precautions		
	Pre-take-off checks		
	Noise abatement procedures		
	Checks during and after take-off		
	Into wind take-off		
	Crosswind take-off		
	Power failures and procedures		
	Abandoned take-off		
	Maximum performance (short field and obstacle clearance) take-off		
	Short take-off and soft field procedure or techniques and performance calculations		
	Local requirements		
Completion Standard	Demonstrate the ability to fly a self-launch and to take appropriate actions in the event of engine failures. BGA Self-launch training v Oct 20 completed:	Instructor	
		Student	

Record keeping

1. 'Taught' & 'Satis.' should be initialled for each exercise.
2. Both instructor and trainee should sign for course completion.
3. In trainee's log book: "BGA Self-launch training v Oct 2020 completed" should be signed by the instructor, together with date, printed name & licence number.
4. The training record must be maintained for 5 years (law again). The instructor should give a copy to the trainee and lodge one in his/her own system, the club's records or with the BGA.