



EGU Newsletter 2/2018

Special Part-SFCL issue

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Editor: Robert Danewid robert.danewid@gmail.com



Editors note

This is a single topic issue and provides an update on recent developments concerning the work with EASA on the new rules for gliding (Part-SFCL).

On the EGU website <http://www.egu-info.org> you find a lot of useful information. If you have forgotten the password to the internal section, please contact EGU.

Report from the EASA workshop on Part-SFCL draft on June 26th

In mid-2015, the EGU appealed to EASA on behalf of its members for a review of EASA's planned gliding regulations. Had those rules been implemented as drafted they would have caused major problems in many countries.

Patrick Ky, EASA Director, agreed with the need to undertake a fundamental rewrite of the rules. Two rule-making task groups were formed by EASA – one for Operations and the other for Flight Crew Licensing. Both comprised EASA officials, and representatives from the EGU and various industry bodies and national aviation authorities (NAA).

The Operations group reported at the end of last year having made excellent progress in completely changing the originally proposed regulations. The second group delivered the new, draft Flight Crew Licensing rules (SFCL) at the end of February.

The next stage of the rule-making process involved an abbreviated consultation process

open to all stakeholders. This took the form of a one day, intensive workshop at EASA in Cologne on 26 June.

EASA asked the EGU to open the meeting with a presentation on the requirement for new gliding rules. It then presented the draft rules for the new Part-SFCL and opened up each and every point for detailed discussion and feedback from all those in attendance.

On balance, it was a very productive workshop with many points raised followed by deep discussion. At the conclusion of the session, there was general agreement with the draft rules as proposed – an outcome that the EGU and its members should be content with.

As they stand, the new rules will:

- Sit apart from the rules for all other categories of aviation in a gliding rule book
- Create a single glider pilot's licence, where some privileges will be linked to the level of medical that a pilot holds
- Allow for a modular, sub-ICAO LAPL(S) that will permit individual countries to introduce

progressive licence privileges (e.g. enabling a pilot to add cross-country privileges after a licence has been issued)

- Allow pilots to train for an SPL for either sailplane or TMG privileges and then add the other category to their licence at a later date
- Simplify the addition of many privileges to existing licences. Launch variants, aerobatic and cloud-flying can all be added by instructors within the club environment without the need for an NAA to reissue licence documents
- Permit a two-level aerobatic rating. A basic rating will allow pilots to fly a selection of the simpler manoeuvres, with pilots wanting to fly the full range of manoeuvres able to train for an advanced rating
- Permit the revalidation of Instructor Certificates without the need to involve an Examiner
- Extend the validity period of Instructor and Examiner Certificates to 5 years
- Create a single Examiner Certificate

There is, of course, a substantial amount of detail in the full text of the new rule, but the above points highlight the key points.

HEALTH WARNING!

This workshop, like the two years of work leading up to it, is not the end of the process. There will be several more months of work by EASA and the European Commission before the new rules will become law. ***The EGU will be asking its members to continue to influence their NAAs in order to ensure that we have every chance of getting the rules through the process without any major changes from this point.***

All being well, the intention is that Part-SFCL will come into force on April 8th 2020.