

7 Gliders



7.1 Airspace and ATC Rules

7.1.1 Certain of the airspace rules and regulations outlined in this Guide either do not apply to gliders or are applied differently. In particular:

(a) Airways (Class A).

Although VFR flight is not permitted in Class A Airways, gliders are exempt from this requirement if the airway is notified for the purpose of the [UK Air Navigation Order Rule 21\(2\)](#). Presently this arrangement is extant in Airways B2 and B226 for flights which comply with the conditions detailed in a Letter of Agreement between Scottish ACC and the BGA, and the glider pilot has received a briefing within the previous 12 months. In particular a glider may cross designated corridors within Airways B2 and B226 without complying with the normal requirements for operation in Class A airspace. In particular:

- (i) An ATC clearance is required;
- (ii) the crossing is carried out in VMC by day (for the purpose of this paragraph the VMC minimum is to be 8 km visibility, 1500 m horizontal and 1000 ft vertical from cloud);
- (iii) the glider pilot is responsible for maintaining VFR separation from other gliders crossing the airways.

(b) Class B Airspace.

Gliders are permitted access to notified areas of Class B Airspace under specified conditions. In particular:

- (i) An ATC clearance is required;
- (ii) the glider pilot is responsible for maintaining VFR separation from other gliders operating within the notified airspace.

(c) Class D Control Zones/Areas. Gliders require an ATC clearance to cross Class D Airspace. Arrangements exist between some Class D airspace operating authorities and local gliding clubs whereby gliders are permitted access to specific portions of airspace under agreed procedures without having to communicate with ATC. Under these circumstances arrangements and procedures are published in the affected ATC unit and gliding club operating procedures.

7.2 Communications

7.2.1 Gliders are required to carry VHF RTF equipment to access Class A, Class B and most Class D Airspace, (under specific arrangements RTF equipment may not be required for access to Class D Airspace).

7.2.2 Glider pilots are required to hold a current Flight Radiotelephony Operators Restricted Licence to operate RTF equipment when communicating with an ATC unit

7.2.3 Winch Launch Activities.

7.2.4 Maximum Altitude of cables is represented in thousands and hundreds of feet above mean sea level calculated using a minimum cable height of 2000ft AGL plus site elevation. At some sites the cable may extend above 2000ft AGL. Due to the ground-based cable, aircraft should avoid over-flying these sites below the indicated altitude.

7.2.5 Symbols depicting Non Winch Launch Hang/Para Gliding sites have been removed from VFR charts as they were not an accurate representation of the activity on any given day. Airspace users should be aware that single or groups of soaring or motorised Hang/Para Gliders can be found flying anywhere in the open FIR up to 15,000ft.