

## BGA Airworthiness and Maintenance Procedure

### GENERAL GUIDANCE FOR AIRCRAFT OWNERS

Version 1.1    Effective date 1 Sep 2016

*Please note that this is general guidance and does not replace any specific requirements under UK and European law.*

**Owner Responsibility.** Owners are responsible for managing the airworthiness of their glider. Keeping a glider airworthy, ie physically and legally fit for flight, takes effort. A first step is to understand the BGA airworthiness requirements. If you haven't already read the 'BGA airworthiness requirements publication in Laws and Rules, please do so.

**Compliance.** It is vitally important that an aircraft is in compliance with the relevant airworthiness requirements. To achieve compliance, it is necessary to be aware of and use the correct data and information including; the maintenance programme, manufacturers and others airworthiness instructions, authority to certify maintenance, and the inevitable but important paperwork.

There are a number of documents you need to be familiar with;

- **Flight Manual and Maintenance Manual.** These documents contain valuable information and need to be kept up to date with manufacturer's amendments.
- **Maintenance Programme.** All gliders operated within the BGA airworthiness system use a minimum generic maintenance programme (known as the GMP) that must be customised - that is to include any additional type specific maintenance requirements - by the owner (a BGA inspector can advise). The GMP includes an annual inspection that must be certified by a BGA inspector. You are advised to carefully read your glider GMP.

A glider must not fly if an **annual maintenance/inspection** is due. Annual means 12 months. Where the last annual inspection was 'anticipated', the annual inspection validity period will be the anticipated period plus 12 months.

- **Airworthiness Review Certificate (ARC).** A glider must not fly if the ARC, or for Annex II the BGA C of A, has expired. Each year, a gliders airworthiness status is reviewed and certified. On EASA gliders, this results in the annual issue of an Airworthiness Review Certificate (ARC). On Annex II Gliders, the review results in the issue of an annual BGA Certificate of Airworthiness.
- **Certificate of Insurance.** Don't get caught out. It is a legal and BGA requirement to hold an appropriate level of insurance. Your insurance broker can advise.

**BGA Airworthiness Support** - including use of BGA inspectors. A BGA issued ARC automatically supplies the aircraft with 12 months BGA airworthiness support. BGA inspectors are not authorised to certify maintenance on the aircraft that do not have a valid BGA issued ARC/valid BGA airworthiness support. Owners of aircraft without a valid BGA

issued ARC can apply separately for BGA airworthiness support, which includes cost of the next ARC issue, using the Airworthiness Support Application Form.

Please note that some EASA aircraft owners choose to arrange to complete the annual inspection and ARC issue at the same time and by the same inspector. Other EASA aircraft owners split the two activities. The key point is that a glider should only fly if it is not due annual inspection and the ARC, or for Annex II the BGA C of A, is valid.

**Pilot / Owner Maintenance.** Pilot/owners are permitted to carry out and certify certain maintenance tasks on their glider – details are in the Airworthiness and Maintenance Procedures on the BGA member's website. It is important that pilot/owners think carefully before carrying out any maintenance task on their glider. If in doubt, seek qualified guidance.

**Inspectors.** Many pilot/owners prefer to use the professional or volunteer skills of an inspector. Most clubs have volunteer inspectors. Word of mouth among owners can usually help owners identify local inspectors who can provide the support sought by an owner. A number of professional maintainers advertise in 'Sailplane and Gliding' magazine, some of whom specialise in repairs. It is up to individual owners and inspectors to consider what service is required and to make their own arrangements. As you would expect, the BGA will not get involved in commercial issues between parties.

If you need help to find a BGA inspector, please contact the BGA office.

Tel 0116 2892956

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