

# News Release



5 September 2005

## **FOOT-LAUNCHED POWERED AIRCRAFT NOW COVERED UNDER THE AIR NAVIGATION ORDER**

The Civil Aviation Authority has announced a significant revision to the safety regulation of foot-launched powered aircraft.

Since 1996, powered hang-gliders and paragliders have operated in UK airspace under exemption from the Air Navigation Order (ANO). With effect from 20 August 2005, they are now defined in the ANO as 'self-propelled hang-gliders' and are subject to the same regulations as other gliders, regardless of whether they are flying powered or unpowered.

The CAA has drawn particular attention to two areas:

- the minimum age for a pilot is 16 years, and exactly the same rules apply to instructional flights when flown under power as when being flown unpowered;
- pilots must comply with the Rules of the Air Regulations, including the 'low-flying rules' contained in Rule 5. This means, for example, that flight in relation to built-up areas must be conducted so as to ensure that a landing can be made clear of the area in the event of engine failure.

The decision to amend the ANO follows a CAA consultation with the UK civil aviation community.

John Hills, Head of the CAA's General Aviation Department, said: "I am very pleased that we have at last been able to recognise properly this branch of free flying in the legislation. It is essential that all instructors and pilots make sure that they understand the flying regulations and airspace rules that apply to their activities."

4905

continued (1 of 2 pages)

**Civil Aviation Authority**

CAA House Press Office 45-59 Kingsway London WC2B 6TE [press.office@caa.co.uk](mailto:press.office@caa.co.uk) [www.caa.co.uk](http://www.caa.co.uk)

Telephone 020 7453 6030 Office Hours 8.30am – 5.30pm 020 7379 7311 Outside Office Hours and Weekends Fax 020 7379 4784

Pilots seeking more information should contact the CAA General Aviation Department on 01293 573316.

For press enquiries contact the CAA press office on 020 7453 6026.

### **Notes to Editors**

The CAA is the UK's specialist aviation regulator. Its activities include: making sure that the aviation industry meets the highest technical and operational safety standards; preventing holidaymakers from being stranded abroad or losing money because of tour operator insolvency; planning and regulating all UK airspace; and regulating airports, air traffic services and airlines and providing advice on aviation policy from an economic standpoint.