

Level 1/34 Somerton Rd  
Somerton  
Victoria 3062 Australia  
Ph: 03 93037805  
Fax: 03 93037960

# *The Gliding Federation of Australia Inc.*



---

Operations

---

## **Operations Advice Notice**

**No. 01/10**

### **Sailplane Operating Limits**

All sailplanes have specific operating limits and pilots are responsible to ensure that aircraft are operated in accordance with these limitations. It is a GFA Airworthiness requirement that certain operating limitations are displayed on cockpit placards for the information of pilots.

Cockpit weight loading limitations are of particular significance for some pilots. Pilots who weigh less than the placarded minimum cockpit load may add ballast weight to bring the cockpit load to, or above, the minimum load requirement. However, pilots who cannot meet the maximum permitted load have no practical means available to them to operate the sailplane within its certified limitations.

Each pilot must accept it is their responsibility to operate a sailplane within its certified limitations and the operation of a sailplane with a cockpit load in excess of the certified limit is not sanctioned by GFA. It is entirely the responsibility of the person acting as the pilot in command of a flight to ensure compliance with the certified maximum cockpit load requirement.

GFA understands that an increasing number of pilots are experiencing difficulty meeting the maximum cockpit load requirement of sailplanes. Pilots in this situation are encouraged to seek gliders which accommodate their needs within their placard limits or to seek advice from the manufacturers or suitably qualified engineers about possible engineering solutions. GFA will pass on any information that becomes available on the matter.

Kevin Olerhead,  
Chief Technical Officer – Operations

28 September 2010