

GLIDING FEDERATION OF AUSTRALIA

AIRWORTHINESS ADVICE NOTICE

REF:GFA. AN/41 LIMITED GENERAL

SUBJECT:

Maintenance Authority Powered Sailplanes.

The informal procedures which have been adopted by the Department of Transport in the acceptance of powered sailplanes (Self launching gliders) for issue of an Australian Certificate of Airworthiness over the past decade came unstuck when the New South Wales Region D.O.T. worked to a strict interpretation of the Air Navigation Regulations and the associated Air Navigation Orders with introduction of the P1k 20 E.

Despite the fact that powered sailplanes, self launching gliders, or motor gliders have been with us for over ten years, D.O.T. have not formally defined them as such so they are, under existing definition, aeroplanes and as such do not come under G.F.A. delegations and the airframe cannot legally be maintained as a glider.

As a result, until D.O.T. have sorted out the legalities and technicalities to define powered sailplanes as a specific class of aircraft and included their airworthiness responsibility in G.F.A. delegations, an interim procedure has become necessary.

The D.O.T. have agreed to issue Maintenance Authority DOT822 for the issue of DOT 741 Maintenance Release for powered sailplanes and where relevant Weight Control Authority without further examination on the recommendation of G.F.A. Regional Technical Officers Airworthiness to suitably qualified Glider Inspectors.

Owners, Operators or other holders of appropriately rated Glider Inspector Certificate DOT 1109 who are, or need to be, involved in powered sailplane maintenance should, as a matter of urgency, contact their Regional Technical Officer Airworthiness who will arrange with DOT Regional Offices for the issue of the relevant Maintenance Authorities.

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