



## GFA AIRWORTHINESS DIRECTIVE

- TYPE AFFECTED:** All FRP gliders with refinished control surfaces.
- SUBJECT:** Checking of the balance and mass of all control surfaces.
- BACKGROUND:** A recent flutter incident has been attributed to incorrect balancing of the control surface following refinishing.
- Further investigation has shown that a significant number of control surfaces on other refinished gliders are out of balance even though the log book entries state that the control surface is within balance and there have been no changes known to the control surface since they were refinished.
- Attention is drawn to GFA AD 278 which covers the quality control procedures to be followed when refinishing sailplanes including checking of control surface balance and mass.
- DOCUMENTATION:** GFA AD 278 and Basic Sailplane Engineering.
- ACTION REQUIRED:** Before 1 May, 1997 the balance and mass of all control surfaces must be checked for compliance with the manufacturer's published limits. These limits will normally be found in the Maintenance Manual.
- Surfaces found to be outside the Manufacturer's limits must be corrected before next flight.
- When manufacturer's data is not available the CTOA must be contacted for guidance.
- The measured balance and mass figures, after bringing the control surfaces back into specification if necessary, must be recorded in the log book.
- If any control surfaces are found to be outside the manufacturer's limits then a report must be sent to the CTOA identifying the aircraft, the balance and mass as measured and a copy of the log book entry which covers the refinishing of the control surface.
- WEIGHT AND BALANCE:** The effect of any change in the mass balance on the total glider weight and balance must be accounted for either by calculation or by reweighing the sailplane.

SIGNED:

  
CHIEF TECHNICAL OFFICER AIRWORTHINESS

For and on behalf of:

THE GLIDING FEDERATION  
OF AUSTRALIA

<b>GFA AD 448</b>	<b>ISSUE: 1</b>	<b>15 February, 1996</b>	<b>Page 2 of 2</b>
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**IMPLEMENTATION:** Measurement of, and any necessary correction to the control surface balance and mass must be performed by persons rated "Inspections for Issue of Maintenance Releases Any Type."

**COMPLIANCE:** The requirements of this GFA Airworthiness Directive are mandatory. This Directive is issued pursuant to the Rules and Regulations of the Gliding Federation of Australia.