



Aspres sur Buech Airfield

Ultralight gliders' aerotow procedures

Liability, insurance, regulation

Aerotows are provided as recommended by the 2015 edition of the "Dossier Remorqués" of the French Federation of Free Flight (FFVL).

Except during specific training courses, the **ultralight glider pilots must be proficient in aerotowing**. The flying conditions in mountain may be very turbulent, making aerotowing very difficult.

As there is no specific aerotowing rating in France, it is the **ultralight glider pilot's responsibility** to determine if he is able or not to be aerotowed regarding the weather conditions of the day.

ADPUL and the tow pilot cannot be responsible of the inability of the ultralight glider pilot to maintain a safe position behind the tow aircraft, whichever are the weather conditions.

Note: one reason of the use of a weaklink at the towline's end is to protect the tow pilot of any dangerous deviation of the ultralight glider relative to the tow aircraft.

The ultralight glider pilot must be **member of the ADPUL** and have a **third part liability insurance** covering aerotowing.

Equipment

ADPUL's towlines are equipped with rings strong and big enough to operate with the triple ring release of the Swiftlights.

Pilots of ultralight gliders equipped with the TOST release must provide a compatible ring and hook it to ADPUL's ring at the end of the tow line.

ADPUL provides the weaklinks which are calibrated, have been tested, and have proved to be right for safe operations.

Tow pilot

The tow pilot has the responsibility:

- to ensure that the ultralight glider pilot has read present document, and has understood the procedures described herein,
- that the ultralight glider pilot is a member of ADPUL,
- to determine the aerotow speed with the the ultralight glider pilot,
- to check that the ultralight glider pilot knows the visual signals,
- that the tow line is in good conditions,
- to cancel the launch if he thinks the turbulences are too strong.

"Starter"

If there are many ultralight glider pilots to be aerotowed, a person may be designated to do the above tasks in place of the tow pilot.

Ultralight glider pilot

the ultralight glider pilot has the responsibility to:

- read, understand and comply with the described herein procedures,
- determine the aerotow speed with the the tow pilot,
- check with him the visual signals,
- ask him the informations about the visual references helping to maintain a proper vertical position relative to the tow plane
- Check the condition of the weak link, and if worn, ask for it's replacement
- In addition to the normal preflight check, verify that he is correctly connected up to the towline,
- Cancel the launch at any time, should the flying conditions become too challenging regarding his own skills level.

Runway instructions

- Normal take off runway is 18
- Preflight preparation is performed between the camp ground and the runway
- In order to minimize the time spent on the runway, the preflight check shall be done before the ultralight glider is put in take off position
- The tow pilot makes the radio traffic
- Take off from other runway is not prohibited, should it be from runway 28 expect possible heavy windshears and turbulences overflying the runway end

Helping the tow pilot to tighten the line without damaging the weaklink

VHF radio may be used, with minimum but accurate messages:

- *OK you may tighten the line*
- *slowly* (just before it is tight)
- *tight* (when it is)
- *I'm ready* (before takeoff checklist completed)

Release

When releasing, turn immediatlty left or right to avoid a collision with the tow line

Aerotow time setting

The evening before your intended flight, advise the tow pilot

The morning when you have planned your take off time, advise him as soon as possiblep

If there is a change in your planned take off time, advise him as soon as you know it

After your flight

Send the tracklog of your flight to adpul@ultralight-glider.fr so as we can check the billing with the tow plane operator

Pay your aerotows to ADPUL before leaving

Date

Name

I agree and will comply

signature