

Safety Directive

DV 01/12: Activities of foreign paraglider pilots in the Republic of Slovenia



- 1. Paraglider and hang glider pilots who are not nationals of the Republic of Slovenia and who are not holders of a licence issued by the competent aviation authority of the Republic of Slovenia, who fly independently in the airspace of the Republic of Slovenia shall hold, in addition to the national licence, which proves his or her competence to fly the aircraft, an IPPI Card with a Safe/Para Pro Stage 4 or 5 rating issued by the International Air Sports Federation (FAI), which proves international competence of the pilot of an aircraft.**
- 2. Flight instructors who are not nationals of the Republic of Slovenia and who are holders of a foreign paragliding and hang gliding instructor certificate shall obtain a special authorisation and instructions from the Civil Aviation Agency of the Republic of Slovenia to perform activity within the Slovene territory.**
- 3. Paraglider and hang glider pilots who are holders of a foreign licence, and who are not holders of an IPPI Card with a Safe/Para Pro Stage 4 or 5 rating, or who are involved in training, shall fly under supervision of a flight instructor, as provided in Paragraph 2 of the Safety Directive.**
- 4. Foreign pilots participating in cross-country flying competitions, regardless of the organizer of the competition and the country organizing the event, within the Slovene territory, shall hold a national licence and have to comply with the requirements of the IPPI Safe/Para Pro Stage 5, implied by Paragraph 1 of the Safety Directive.**

II. Commentary:

Paragraph 1

The Regulation on hang gliding and paragliding (Official Gazette of RS, No. 13/1999) (hereafter the Regulation) in Article 33, Paragraph 1, stipulates:

»In the Republic of Slovenia, aircraft may be operated by foreign pilots who hold a valid licence *issued by a foreign country or its competent Authority, and a Sporting Licence (FAI) or the International Pilot Proficiency Identification Card (IPPI), issued by The International Air Sports Federation (FAI).*«

According to the cited provision of the Regulation, foreigners flying within the territory of the Republic of Slovenia have to satisfy two requirements. Firstly, they have to hold a licence issued by the competent Authority of a foreign country. Secondly, they have to be holders of a Sporting Licence (FAI) or the International Pilot Proficiency Identification Card (IPPI), issued by the International Air Sports Federation (hereafter FAI).

A Sporting Licence, issued by FAI at the request of a pilot, is not a proof of the pilot's competence to fly a paraglider or hang glider because it is obtained solely on request of the pilot and against payment. For this reason, the IPPI card, issued in compliance with requirements of FAI, is the most appropriate means of proving the experience and skill of a pilot at international level. An IPPI card is issued by a competent national organisation which is a member of FAI, or any other approved organisation on the basis of experience of the holder of a national licence.

With regard to the fact, that competence and skills of a pilot who did not perform the entire training in accordance with the directive, and the fact that some pilot are not

familiar with flying technique and conditions that are characteristic of the Slovene territory, especially orographic and microclimatic conditions of the north and northwest Slovenia, the most objective method of verifying the competence of a pilot is to check the rating on the IPPI card, issued by a competent national organisation which is a member of FAI.

With regard to the above statements, an IPPI Card with a Safe/Para Pro Stage 4 or 5 rating is required for pilots who fly independently in the airspace of the Republic of Slovenia. As stipulated in the prescribed international paragliding standards, a pilot who reached an IPPI stage 4 rating is qualified to fly in thermal conditions or engage in thermal soaring. A pilot who reached an IPPI stage 5 is qualified to perform cross country flights.

Paragraph 2

The Regulation on hang gliding and paragliding (Official Gazette of RS, No. 13/1999) (hereafter the Regulation) in Article 33, Paragraph 2, stipulates:

»Foreign flight instructors may give flying lessons in the Republic of Slovenia on condition that that they obtain a *special permission from the Agency*.«

With regard to the fact that the Civil Aviation Agency of the Republic of Slovenia became operational on 1 May 2011 (hereafter: the Agency) and took up surveillance and regulatory professional tasks from the field of civil aviation in the territory of the Republic of Slovenia, foreign citizens who hold a foreign licence with a paragliding and hang gliding instructor certificate must obtain the approval and instructions from the Agency.

The Agency may or may not approve the request for the provision of training conducted by a foreign instructor. In addition, the Agency or an appointed, qualified person informs the applicant about the characteristics of flying within the Slovene territory, rules of the air, restrictions and take-off points suitable for the training of pilots.