



# SAFETY ADVISORY

Issued by Angus Pinkerton - Chairman of the Flying & Safety Committee, 1 October 2002

*All pilots must READ, DIGEST AND TAKE ACTION on the contents of this Notice and keep it for future reference.*

*If you hold a copy of the BHPA Technical Manual this notice must be inserted into it and retained until it is withdrawn or superseded on instructions from the Chairman FSC.*

## UPDATED ADVICE: BUYING YOUR FIRST PARAGLIDER

The situation regarding paragliders suitable for first time buyers has changed sufficiently for the FSC to consider it necessary to update its published advice.

Previously the FSC advice was that: 'new Club Pilots must only consider Standard-class or DHV 1 or 1/2 gliders.'

Since that advice was issued, it has become the case that canopies with an increasingly wide range of handling and performance characteristics are gaining DHV 1 / 2 certification, and many (perhaps even most) of these would not be suitable for first time buyers. It is also the case that some Standard class gliders would not be suitable for all first time buyers.

The updated advice is that: 'new Club Pilots should only consider Standard class or DHV 1 gliders. (Some DHV 1/2 gliders may also be suitable, whilst some Standard class gliders may be less suitable.)' The Airworthiness Classification should not be confused with a 'Buyer's Guide'. Use the certification to guide you to the possibilities, but then take advice from instructors, manufacturers (they know exactly the type of pilot the wing is intended for); dealers, other pilots and magazine reviews to help identify the wing most suitable for you.

--- end ---