



SAFETY ADVISORY

Revised DHV Paraglider Classification

The FSC wish to bring the following matter to the attention of **paraglider pilots, instructors, coaches, safety officers and dealers.**

The DHV recently announced that they have revised the official wording of their paraglider certification scheme. The BHPA comparative table set out below shows the new relationship between the CEN/AFNOR system and the revised DHV system, and also includes recommended minimum pilot ratings for each level.

The previous widely held belief in the UK that a glider classified DHV 2 could be suitable as a first canopy for a Club Pilot is now clearly not the case given descriptions such as “demanding flying characteristics” and “potentially violent reactions”. The FSC has already encountered one Pilot rated member who was very surprised at the lively behaviour of his newly purchased DHV Class 2 canopy when compared to his previous one.

| CEN | CEN Description | DHV | Description |
|-------------|--|-----|---|
| Standard | <p>For the inexperienced pilot and pilots seeking relaxed flying.</p> <p>Very stable, rapid recovery with no pilot input, easy predictable handling.</p> | 1 | Paragliders with simple and very forgiving flying characteristics. |
| | | 1/2 | Paragliders with good-natured flying characteristics. (Recommended minimum: BHPA Club Pilot rating) |
| Performance | <p>For the very experienced pilot who flies frequently, flies ‘actively’ and is familiar with normal recovery techniques. Generally stable with straightforward recovery though this may require pilot input, predictable handling</p> <p>(Recommended minimum BHPA Pilot rating)</p> | 2 | Paragliders with demanding characteristics and potentially dynamic reactions to turbulence and pilot errors. For regularly flying pilots. (Recommended minimum: BHPA Pilot rating) |
| | | 2/3 | Paragliders with very demanding characteristics with potentially violent reactions to turbulence and pilot errors. For experienced and regularly flying pilots. (Recommended minimum: BHPA Advanced Pilot rating) |
| Competition | <p>For the very experienced advanced pilot, who flies almost every day. This pilot will need very highly developed skills at avoiding and recovering from all departures from normal flight.</p> <p>Possibly only minimal stability, recovery may require skilled accurate piloting and may need time, possibly demanding handling.</p> <p>(Recommended minimum: BHPA Advanced Pilot rating)</p> | 3 | Paragliders with very demanding characteristics and potentially very violent reactions to turbulence and pilot errors. Little scope for pilot errors. For expert pilots. (Recommended minimum: BHPA Advanced Pilot rating) |