



SAFETY ADVISORY

The FSC wish to bring the following matter to the attention of aerotow dual pilots, tug pilots and aerotow coaches.

Aerotowing with XL 462 HP fitted with Newton wooden two blade propeller

The Pegasus XL-R fitted with the Arplast 3 blade propeller is used by the majority of aerotow clubs in the UK. Recently some clubs have taken delivery of these tugs fitted with Newton 2 blade wooden propellers. These machines have significantly reduced take off and climb performance. Whilst the performance appears to meet the minimums required for the aerotowing of solo hang gliders, it is extremely unlikely that it will meet safe minimums for aerotowing dual hang gliders. (The Arplast fitted variant achieves in the order of 250 feet per minute when towing dual hang gliders, and this is regarded as the absolute minimum r.o.c. acceptable.)

As each XL tug has to have its individual permit to fly specifically amended to allow it to tow hang gliders of over 150kg All up Weight, it is unlikely that any Newton propeller fitted XL tug is legally entitled to attempt to tow dual hang gliders.

In the meantime, the FSC is, in the interests of safety, banning the aerotowing of gliders over 150kg All up Weight by XL tugs fitted with Newton 2 blade wooden propellers until their suitability has been properly investigated and proven.