

Nov 0017 Importer's Safety Notice

AIR Atos – all models



Avian have received a report of dangerous instability of an Atos VQ Race glider. Despite normal behaviour on recent outings, on one occasion the glider exhibited negative pitching and became totally unresponsive in pitch following retraction of the flaps to the zero setting. Control was re-established by reselecting flaps down.

Inspection revealed that the outer leading edges of the Atos had been inserted on the wrong sides. The leading edge junctions of all Atos gliders are colour coded and should be fitted green to green and red to red. In addition, a small screw on one leading edge (pictured) should conflict with a rivet to prevent the wrong outer section being inserted; however if either is incorrectly fitted or worn they may not prevent mis-rigging.

Incorrect insertion will lead to dramatically-altered washout and potentially dangerous behaviour in flight, yet without close inspection it's not apparent that the glider is mis-rigged. Before their next flight, all Atos pilots are recommended to:

- Check that it is impossible to put the leading edge outer in the wrong side.
- During your pre-flight check, always include a green-to-green, red-to-red check.

If, in flight, the glider feels dangerous in pitch, deploy the flaps to regain control. If necessary, seek modification to your glider at Avian.

Tim Swait, Avian Hang Gliders, September 25 2023