

- Subject : Aerotow  
Important Information
- Applicable to : All DG and LS gliders and motor gliders
- Description : Serious accidents during aerotows still happen. For this reason we have compiled the following recommendations.
- Measures :
1. If possible, the C of G hook should not be used for aerotowing. If the glider is not equipped with a forward tow hook we strongly recommend retrofitting one. Retrofit kits are available for all DG and LS gliders and motor gliders.  
We strongly recommend retrofitting aerotow-hooks in particular to the all-flying tail models DG-100 and LS1-0 to LS1-d.
  2. The tow rope should be at least 40m long, even if glider manuals might state shorter rope lengths.
  3. The weak links stated in the glider manuals are applicable to both aerotow and winch launches.  
Research carried out for the LBA, the German Civil Aviation Authority, has shown that significantly weaker weak links are totally sufficient for aerotowing. Using a weaker weak link improves the tow plane's safety if the glider does climb out of control.  
We therefore recommend using a weak link with a strength equivalent to half the glider's takeoff weight.
  4. Stay current, don't do an aerotow without an instructor if you haven't done at least 5 aerotows in the previous 6 months.
  5. Always set the trim forward to avoid climbing higher than the tow plane.
  6. Warning: On the models LS1-0 to LS1-d (with all-moving tail) you must not move the stick fully forward in the initial stage of the tow, as this would cause the elevator to stall. Instead leave the elevator in a neutral position until it becomes effective, only then move the stick forward.
  7. Stay fully focused on each aerotow and avoid any inadvertent climbing above the tow plane. In particular if you aerotow on the C of G hook, climbing higher than the tow plane can quickly get out of control and cause the tow plane to crash!
  8. The models with all-moving tails, DG-100 and LS1-0 to LS1-d, have a particular tendency during takeoff to cause a PIO (pilot-induced oscillation) if excessive elevator movements are made.  
Therefore hold the stick steady especially during the initial part of the aerotow and the takeoff, and move the elevator only very gently.
  - 9.
- Material : For retrofit kits see the relevant Technical Notes on the DG website.
- Note: please insert a copy of this Service Info in the glider's manual and make all fellow pilots aware of it.

Bruchsal den 2.06.2004

Author:  
Dipl. Ing. Wilhelm Dirks

Translation: Claudia  
Büngen