

 <p>AIP services phone: +41 (0) 43 931 61 68 fax: +41 (0) 43 931 61 59 AFTN: LSSAYOYX aip@skyguide.ch</p>	<p>AIC</p> <p>Schweiz Suisse Svizzera Switzerland skyguide, swiss air navigation services ltd AIP services ch-8602 wangen bei dübendorf</p>	<p>A</p> <p>003/06 MAR 30</p>
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Operation of foreign microlight aircraft within Swiss airspace

1. General remarks

It has been possible to register and operate aircraft in the "Ecolight" category in Switzerland since 1st July 2005.

Note: Outside Switzerland, aircraft that correspond to the Swiss category, "Ecolight", include those designated as "microlight", "ultralight", "Ultraleichtflugzeuge", "ultra-léger motorisé" (ULM), etc.

Ecolight aircraft are aircraft that meet the following requirements:

- Three-axis fixed-wing aircraft with a surface load capacity of at least 20 kilograms per square metre.
- Valid certification in accordance with German standard LTF-UL.
- Compliance with special Swiss environmental regulations.
- Certification by the Swiss Microlight Federation (SMF) in accordance with the specifications of the Swiss Federal Office for Civil Aviation.

Airworthiness certificate and registration code:

- Ecolight aircraft that have been entered in the Swiss aircraft register hold an airworthiness certificate recognised by the ICAO (special category).
- Ecolight aircraft are entered in the Swiss aircraft register with registration code HB-W__.

Minimum licence requirements for pilots:

Valid private pilot's licence (RPPL-ECO or PPL(A) with ECO authorisation).

Flight operation:

The same regulations apply as for conventional light aircraft (use of airfield, minimum flight altitudes, flight regulations, etc.).

Restrictions:

As before, microlight helicopters, trikes, motorised hang gliders (deltas and paragliders) and aircraft with a wing load below 20 kilograms per square metre are excluded from the category "Ecolight" and therefore cannot be operated in Swiss airspace.

2. Use of Swiss airspace by foreign microlight aircraft

In connection with certain conditions, it is principally possible to use foreign airspace with an Ecolight aircraft. Switzerland grants reciprocity.

Principle:

Pilots of microlight aircraft registered abroad may use Swiss airspace without the need for a special permit on the following conditions:

- **Restriction of duration of use:**
Swiss airspace may only be used on an occasional basis; the aircraft may not be kept permanently in Switzerland.
- **Technical requirements:**
 - Valid certification in accordance with LTF-UL, BCAR-S, or possession of a recognised certification in accordance with JAR.
 - The restrictions cited in point 1 above also apply to foreign microlight aircraft.
 - Models approved for entry into Switzerland are entered in a list compiled and constantly updated by the FOCA. This list will be posted on the FOCA web site within the next few weeks (see Appendix for current list, valid as of 1st April 2006).
- **Regulations concerning pilots:**
 - Possession of the necessary pilot's licence for flying the type of microlight aircraft in the country of registration.
 - Pilots who only hold a national licence (e.g. microlight licence) may only fly in Swiss airspace zones G and E.

Entry into Control Zone (CTR) for landing and takeoff purposes requires a prior permission (PPR) from the corresponding traffic control authorities (as a rule, possession of a valid on-board radio-telephone operator's licence is a prerequisite).

Pilots who hold a recognised JAR or ICAO licence may fly microlight aircraft in Swiss airspace in accordance with the relevant Swiss provisions in the same way as normal registered aircraft.

Flight plans and customs formalities:

For cross-border flights, pilots are required to issue a flight plan and use an airport that handles customs formalities.

Appendix:

List of models approved for entry into Switzerland (status 1st April 2006):

Type	Series	Approval
Source: data sheets (Germany)		
Bee 15 MB	1	LTF-UL
Breezer		LTF-UL
CT	2K, SW	LTF-UL
Dynamic	WT 9	LTF-UL
EUROFOX	Basic, Pro, Modell 99, Space	LTF-UL
EUROSTAR	Modell 2000, Modell 2000R	LTF-UL
FK 9	MK 3, MK IV, MK IV Utility	LTF-UL
Gemini	Remos G-3 Mirage	LTF-UL
Ikarus	C42	LTF-UL
Impulse	100, 2200 TD, 3300 TD	LTF-UL
Jabiru	UL 450 C	LTF-UL
P92 "Echo"	P92 "Echo"; S 100, 2000 S, Short Wing	LTF-UL
Pioneer	200, 300 UL	LTF-UL
Polaris FK14	A, B	LTF-UL
Pretty Flight;	Mikron	LTF-UL
Savage	Classic	LTF-UL
Savannah	MXP-740 V, S	LTF-UL
Sinus	912 UL, 503 UL-2V	LTF-UL
Smaragd FA01	100 K, J K	LTF-UL
Storch	Jabiru HS	LTF-UL
TL 96	Star, Sting	LTF-UL
UW-9 Sprint		LTF-UL
Wild Thing	2200, 3300, Hawk, 912, 912S, SVJ	LTF-UL
X-Air F	582 UL, Jabiru 2200	LTF-UL
Zenair Zodiac	CH 601 XL	LTF-UL
Zodiac	601-D, DX	LTF-UL
Source: data sheets (UK)		
Chevron	2-32, 2-32A	BCAR-S
Cyclone	AX2000, AX3/503	BCAR-S
Flight Design	CT2K	BCAR-S
Ikarus	C42 FB-40, FB-100	BCAR-S
Shadow	Series B, ADD 1, B-D, C, C-D, D, DD	BCAR-S
Snowbird	MK-IV	BCAR-S
Spectrum		BCAR-S
TeamEurostar	UK	BCAR-S
Thruster	T600N, T600T, TST MK1, TST T30	BCAR-S
Other		
Piccolo		JAR 22

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