

ATTENTION ALL PARAMOTOR PILOTS!

Following a tragic fatal Paramotor accident at Gormanstown Beach on 4 June 2016 the Irish Air Accident Investigation Unit produced a report:

<http://www.aaiu.ie/sites/default/files/report-attachments/REPORT%202017-001.pdf>

One of the recommendations was that the General Aviation Safety Council of Ireland (GASCI) should consider circulating a notice and/or conducting an educational campaign to stress to its members the importance of ensuring that all paramotor/paraglider equipment is operated within the limitations laid down by the manufacturer. This note has been prepared in consultation with the GASCI Paramotor representatives; it and the AAIU report are highly recommended reading for all paramotor pilots.

WARNING – EXCEEDING MAXIMUM TAKE-OFF WEIGHT

Exceeding the take-off weight limits, as given in the technical data of the paraglider, increases the risk of an incident in case of pilot error. The smaller the wing area, the greater the risk. With increased wing loading, paragliders can significantly change their behaviour. The most dangerous aspect of exceeding the MTOW is the hyperactivity of the canopy.

CAUTION!!!

Check your actual take-off weight! Pilots may calculate their take-off weight based on the advertised numbers. For example, paramotor 29 kg + canopy 6 kg + pilot 87 kg = ca. 120 kg. The real take-off weight can be up to 15 kg greater. People forget to include their clothing, instruments, accessories, car keys, rescue kits, etc. Even omitting such obvious things as the fuel or the rescue chute weight can happen!

RECOMMENDATION

From time to time, step on a weighing scales to confirm you maximum take-off weight with full gear on, including the canopy and paramotor.