



U.S. Department
of Transportation

**Federal Aviation
Administration**

800 Independence Ave., S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20591

Dec 13 2010

Regulatory Docket No. FAA-2001-9032

Mr. Jeff Goin
United States Powered Paragliding Association
931 West 75th Street
#137-150,
Naperville, IL 60565

Dear Mr. Goin:

This is in response to your October 16, 2010 letter (FAA-2002-12476) and the letter dated November 16, 2010 requesting that the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) clarify the intent of the exemptions issued to United States Powered Paragliding Association (USPPA) and to Aero Sports Connection (ASC). The USPPA exemption (9751A) permits training using foot-launched, two-place powered paragliders. The ASC exemption (9785A) permits training using foot-launched two-place powered or unpowered paragliders or hang gliders.

Both the USPPA and ASC exemptions contain virtually the same wording and are intended to convey the same meaning. These exemptions permit only the operation of foot-launched powered or unpowered paragliders or hang gliders. The use of wheels is not acceptable. The addition of wheels, skids, carts, etc., will create a powered parachute or a weight shift control (WSC) trike, both of which are subject to FAA certification as aircraft.

Below you will find specific answers to the questions you forwarded to the FAA for clarification:

1. Is it acceptable that foot launchable powered paraglider that happens to have wheels be launched or landed on a tandem instructional flight, using those wheels, under either exemption listed above?

Response – It is not acceptable for a two place foot-launched powered paraglider (or hang glider) to use wheels for any launch or landing, solo or under the exemptions in question.

2. Is it acceptable that the motor unit has skids or wheels intended to support its own weight during launch or landing? The instructor or student are supporting their own weight during the launch and landing.

Response – Any support of the motor unit is acceptable only when static. The launch and landings must be solely by foot.

3. Is there any difference in applicability or meaning of the term “foot-launched” between the ASC and USPPA exemptions?

Response – There is no difference in the applicability or meaning of the term “foot-launched.”

A copy of this clarification will be provided to ASC to ensure standardization.

Sincerely,

/s/

Raymond Towles
Acting Director, Flight Standards
Service