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# SWITZERLAND

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**AIC 003/2015 A**

**Effective Date: 12-NOV-2015**

**Publication Date: 12-NOV-2015**

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**CNL AIC 006/2013 A**

## Operation of foreign micro-light aircraft within Swiss airspace

### 1. General remarks

It has been possible to register aircraft in the "Eco-light" category in Switzerland since 1 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.

In addition, with effect from 15 July 2015, ultralight aircraft with an electric motor may also be registered in Switzerland.

#### **Ecolight aircraft are aircraft meeting the following specifications:**

- Three-axis fixed-wing aircraft.
- Valid certification in accordance with German certification standards LTF-UL.
- Compliance with special Swiss certification requirements.
- Type officially recognised/validated by FOCA.

#### **Ecolight aircraft with an electric motor are aircraft meeting the following specifications:**

- Three-axis fixed-wing aircraft.
- Valid certification in accordance with German certification standards LTF-UL or British certification standard BCAR Section S. A certification by one of the following organisations is also recognised: Deutscher Aeroclub, Deutscher Ultraleichtflugverband, and British Microlight Aircraft Association.
- Type is not validated by FOCA.

### **Flight authorization**

Ecolight aircraft and ultralight aircraft with an electric motor entered in the Swiss aircraft register do hold an airworthiness certificate in the special category (valid exclusively in Swiss airspace).

### **Registration code**

- Ecolight with combustion engine and aircraft with an electrically powered engine: HB-W...
- Ecolight touring motor gliders: HB-5000 to HB-5499
- Ecolight motorised gliders: HB-5500 to HB-5599

### **Minimum licence requirements for pilots**

A valid pilot's licence (RPPL or EASA LAPL).

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## Flight operation

- The same regulations apply as for conventional light aircraft (use of airfield, minimum flight altitudes, flight regulations, etc.).
- Electrically operated ultralight aircraft are not permitted to operate to or from Switzerland's national airports.

## 2. Use of Swiss airspace by foreign microlight aircraft

Special categories aircraft without internationally recognised airworthiness certificates (for microlight, ultralight, ultra-léger motorisé, etc.) may only be operated in the airspace of the country in which they are registered.

For operation in Switzerland, foreign ultralight aircraft require a special permit for the use of Swiss airspace. This does not apply to foreign ultralight aircraft corresponding to a type already approved for operation in Switzerland: such aircraft may be operated in Switzerland without an explicit special permit.

The list of microlight / ecolight aircraft approved for use in, or permitted to enter Switzerland may be viewed by clicking on the following link:

[www.bazl.admin.ch](http://www.bazl.admin.ch) > Portal for Specialists > Aircraft > Airworthiness > Foreign aircraft that belong to special categories > Microlights entitled to fly in Switzerland

## Restrictions and duration of operation

- The Swiss airspace may only be used on an occasional basis; the aircraft may not be kept permanently in Switzerland.
- Electrically operated ultralight aircraft are not permitted to operate to or from Switzerland's national airports.

## Technical specifications

- A Valid certification in accordance with regulations LTF-UL, BCAR-S.
- The models approved for entry into Switzerland are entered in a list compiled and constantly updated by the FOCA.

## Regulations concerning pilots

- Hold the necessary pilot's licence for flying the type of microlight aircraft in the country of registration.
- Pilots only holding a national licence (e.g. microlight licence) may only fly in Swiss airspace zones G and E.
- Entry into control zones (CTR) for landing and takeoff purposes requires a prior permit (PPR) from the local air traffic control authority (as a rule, possession of a valid on-board radiophone operator's licence is a prerequisite).
- Pilots holding a recognised EASA 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.

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