



**All Members**

**25th of November, 2016**

Hi All,

**PART ONE:**

Clarification of Cross Country operational requirements within our Operations Manual (OM) has been completed. Specifically with regards to cross country flight for Advanced HG & PG5 pilots on a motorised aircraft.

In the past, the OM stipulated that only Advanced HG or PG5 pilots were able to fly more than 25 Nm from launch. However, this did not adequately take into consideration powered operations.

The PPG Sub-committee recognised this, whilst developing straight through training programs, some 5 years ago and for this reason amendments were made to the OM and approved by CASA in March 2015. Unfortunately, the intent of these lacked clarity.

In recent times there has been an increase in the number of pilots breaching airspace, not carrying and using VHF radios, as well as not complying with NOTAMS etc. In the majority of cases the pilots claim lack of understanding.

To address this, the HGFA intends to increase emphasis in Advanced HG and PG5 training/exams, in-line with the requirements for the WM & PPG XC endorsements, with particular emphasis on flight planning, understanding airspace, VHF communications and awareness of other airspace users.

Section 4.1.11 has now been clarified so that it clearly indicates the limits of cross country operations for powered aircraft, unless the pilot has successfully completed and is the holder of a WM or PPG XC endorsement.

Further reasoning behind this, is that motorised aircraft have a significantly easier ability to fly longer distances and take off from almost any location. For example; someone could complete basic training, fill the tank, and fly from a remote location, unknowingly into controlled airspace. Another real life example was when a pilot took off from a park next to Coolangatta Airport and flew his paramotor immediately in front of a Tiger Airways aircraft, in the process of taking off. The Tiger aircraft had to abort its take-off mid-runway, taxi back to the terminal to unload 200+ passengers, refuel, re-load after the mandated maintenance checks and then depart.

Yes... It did happen...!!!

It's critical that pilots understand the dangers and their responsibilities. The WM & PPG XC endorsements provide a much deeper

level of knowledge with respect to flight planning, airspace, NOTAMS, weather forecasting, VHF usage and airfield operational procedures. This is in-line with most other recreational & general aviation requirements throughout Australia.

We believe this will impact relatively few pilots, however, the benefits will be significant.

We do understand that there are pilots who already have XC skills and the required knowledge. As such, we will be allowing for prior skills recognition.

For example; if you have a GA Navigation endorsement or a RAA certificate with XC endorsement, these qualifications will be recognised.

We also will be putting in place a "Grandfathering" process to cater for others with long term experience and knowledge. This will probably entail XC Workshops being run at fly-ins, however, details of this process are still being determined and will be published when confirmed.

The PPG XC endorsement training package will be available shortly, under "Workbooks & Study Guides" in the "Documents" section of the Member Zone.

#### PART TWO:

We have now introduced a new role "AIRS Manager" to assist in the improvement of Safety at a club level. (AIRS = Accident and Incident Reporting System.)

These persons will assist in the investigation of accidents and incidents in their local area, lending support to emergency services, as may be needed and working with club SO's & SSO's to assist in the management of club site safety and disseminate findings and knowledge gained from accidents & incidents.

For further information regarding the role and responsibilities, please look at section 6.4.4 of the new Operations Manual.

Accident Investigation Courses are being arranged with the RAA & emergency services for next year. The HGFA will be subsidising the cost of these.

Club application forms for the role are available under "Appointments" in the "Documents" section of the Member Zone.

Thank you.

Regards,



## Questions & Feedback

Questions and feedback regarding HGFA Operations or Management are welcome! Please feel free to email HGFA management ([management@hgfa.asn.au](mailto:management@hgfa.asn.au)).

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