

Information about:

Austrian Law for Paragliding:

In Austria it is only allowed to fly Paragliders if you have one of the following licenses:

The Austrian license

The Swiss license

and

The German license

Of course, all other requirements that would keep you from taking off or entering a specific area etc. etc. do also count and have to be respected!

This is a national law! This national law is more valid than an EU Law. But by the way, there is no EU Law that says something different!

If you don't have one of the above licenses there are a few ways to get permission to fly in Austria:

The direct way: You pass an exam.

Go to an Austrian flight school and ask them what it would cost to make a course. Pass the test and add at least 100€ for the bureaucratic stuff, the license itself, the shipment and the government fee. When you talk to your flight school always keep in mind, that it is not an easy thing to issue a license to everybody just like this! It means that they are responsible for the fact, that you who got the license are really qualified to fly a glider safely. They are responsible for the fact that you heard all the facts that are important for Austrian terms. We have mountainous areas, flat areas, registered areas and maybe specialties that do not exist in foreign countries.

The complicated way: You compare your national education documents with the Austrian one in an official process:

As far as I have heard, this has not been done yet, but you could collect all the paragliding education documents and send them to the Austrian Aero Club. After this, you have to get a valid comparison of your local and the Austrian documents. If they are the same, they can allow you to do a softened test. But in any case, you will have to do chapters like Austrian law, which is a chapter that you will not have had in your paragliding education before.

As far as I know, this did not happen yet even once.

One advice from the Author:

- Your flight school is not responsible to tell you about existing law or any change in the Austrian law unless you are in a paragliding instruction course! BUT!!! They will ever tell you everything if you ask! But it is not their job to find you or hang out information for you to tell you about the existing law!

- You may find it expensive what the license paper will cost, but imagine what a fine costs! (It will be 300€ +)
- If there is more trouble than just falling in the lake or getting caught by the police accidentally there is a chance that the costs and maybe harm is much worse! Imagine, you landed (safely), you put away your glider and a wind gust blows it on the street or on somebody on a bicycle. If the injury is just nothing but anybody calls the police your costs are in the 1000€s And this is for just a wounded knee! No ambulance needed! Don't imagine what an Austrian rescue can cost!

Conclusion:

There is an agitation on the way trying to make the system more easy and flexible to get a legal way to find a possibility for none German speaking pilots, pilots with other countries licenses and stuff like this – **patience is a virtue** for paragliders as you know!

The Author:

Benedikt Skok

Paragliding pilot since 13 years

I am not a member of the flight school, but I appreciate their work. It was my own will to write these lines and it is my own will that makes me hanging out these papers.

I do not take any responsibility for the correctness of the information above, but I tried to write the true facts.

Please understand, that I wrote this for your information and not to indoctrinate you!

I wish you all happy flights and **ALWAYS SAVE LANDINGS!**