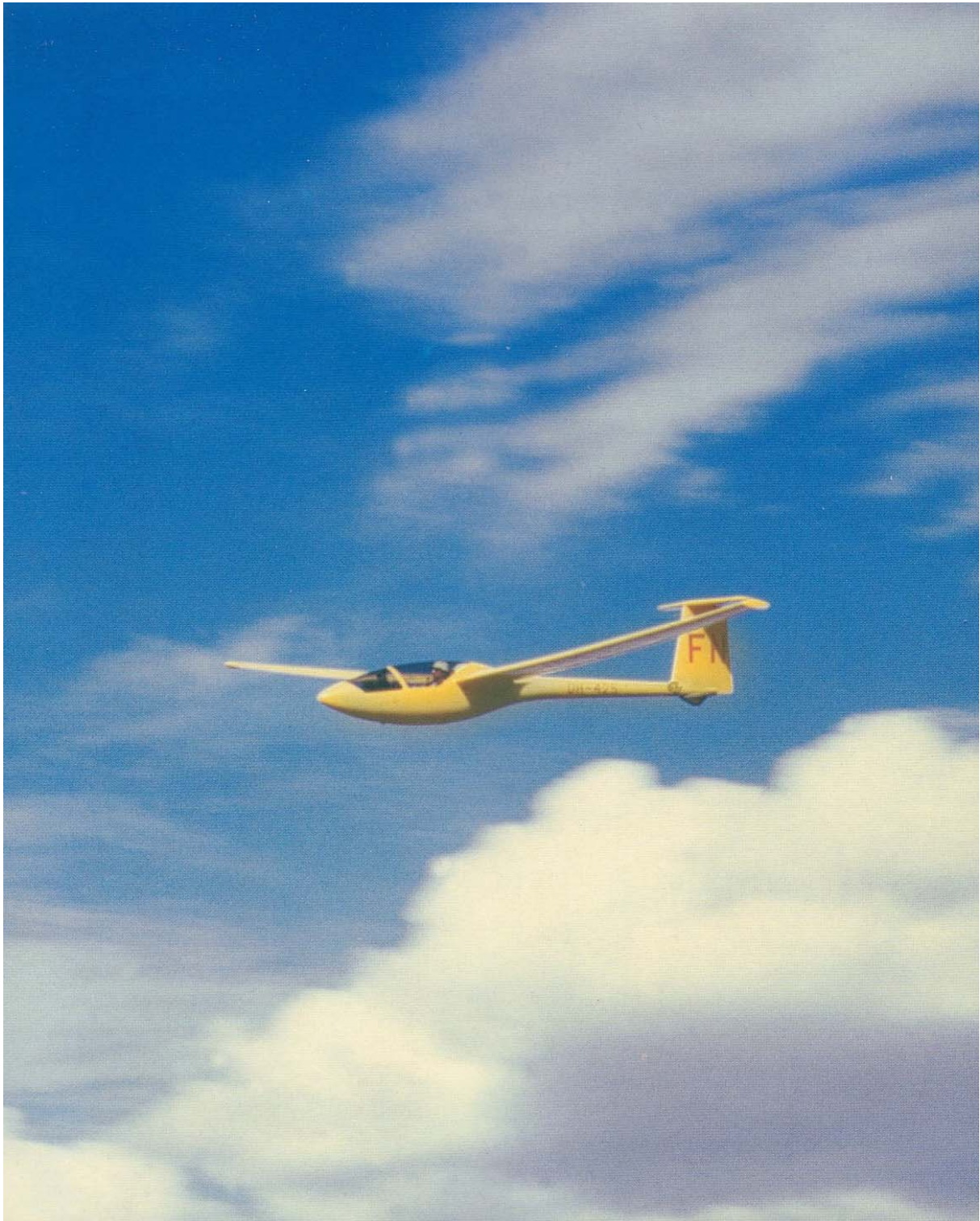


GLIDING FEDERATION OF AUSTRALIA



BASIC GLIDING KNOWLEDGE

FIFTH EDITION



BASIC GLIDING KNOWLEDGE

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INTRODUCTION

Although the title of this book is largely self-explanatory, a few words of further explanation may help to understand its specific purpose.

The Gliding Federation of Australia (GFA) is responsible to the Civil Aviation Safety Authority (CASA) for the conduct of safe gliding operations in Australia. This includes the setting and maintenance of flying standards and in particular training standards.

Glider pilots are exempt from holding pilots licences. GFA is responsible for the establishment of pilot certificates which are regarded highly enough for CASA and the aviation industry to be considered as a satisfactory substitute for licences.

As the basic building blocks of learning to fly gliders, the GFA has established three levels of pilot certificates, known simply as the A, B and C Certificates. The purpose of these three levels is to progressively build up pilot ability and confidence, offering the developing pilot more privileges as experience increases. They may be considered as the basic certificates of competence and therefore as the loose equivalent of the various stages of licences that power pilots hold.

The ultimate training objective of the GFA is to produce safe and efficient cross-country pilots. On the basis that walking comes before running, it is necessary to put in place a certain level of knowledge and some unbreakable habits of safety before raising the sights to the goals of the various international badges of achievement or to become an efficient competitive glider pilot. The A, B and C Certificates help to cement the knowledge and safe habits into place.

Not all pilots want to fly cross-country all the time, nor do they necessarily want to compete. Some pilots enjoy sharing a two-seater for a pleasant couple of hours soaring or introducing other members of their family to the pleasures of our sport. These certificates are also aimed at helping them to achieve these ends.

Most glider-pilot training is practical and “hands-on” in nature. However, there is an amount of theoretical knowledge which is not only desirable, but actually makes the task of learning to fly easier and more pleasurable. The theoretical knowledge is imparted progressively as flying training continues.

The purpose of this book is to provide a reference for the kind of knowledge which you will need as you progress through the various certificates. It covers everything you will need during training, from the basic reasons why a glider is able to fly in the first place to the meteorology which enables it to soar. It also covers most essential items in between, such as air legislation, basic navigation and use of radio.

Integrated into the three basic pilot certificates are oral examinations on all aspects of the basic theory necessary to become a safe glider pilot and take your place in the air with other formally trained pilots. All the material on which these oral exams are based will be found in this book.

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