

OPERATING A FACTORY BUILT MICROLIGHT ON A LAA PERMIT TO FLY

A range of Technical Leaflets is published by LAA Engineering to explain how a LAA Permit aircraft is operated. In late 2005, the LAA expanded the scope of aircraft it administers, to include Factory Built versions of the microlight aircraft types that have been approved in amateur built form.

The system for amateur built aircraft is based on the aircraft owner/builder having a level of understanding of the aircraft design and maintenance safety aspects. This is coupled with restrictions on the aircraft operations to minimise risk to third parties. With third parties protected and the owner legitimately able to recognise the implications of flying an aircraft which is "not certificated to an international requirement", it is then possible to grant a wider range of maintenance privileges to the owner.

Factory built microlight aircraft are fundamentally different because they may legally be used to supply remunerated flight training to ordinary members of the public. These are people who cannot be expected to have the same appreciation of the airworthiness status of the aircraft. It is also more likely that these aircraft will be operated by a commercially motivated organisation rather than a person or group of owners.

In consideration of this, some of the flexibility which exists in the maintenance regime applicable to amateur built and vintage aircraft is curtailed. This Technical Leaflet has been produced to highlight the caveats and changes to the Technical Leaflets covering operations and maintenance of aircraft on LAA permits, which are specific to Factory Built Microlights. These changes can be summarised as follows:

- Factory Built Microlight have to be identified as such by an appropriate placard.
- Only the manufacturer's approved maintenance schedule is acceptable for Factory Built Microlight aircraft. This covers airframe, engine, propeller and any other equipment. Special conditions apply to "Pilot Authorised Maintenance".
- Only spare parts and consumables approved by the aircraft manufacturer for use on Factory Built Microlight Aircraft may be used on these aircraft.
- Any Modifications or repairs must be approved directly through the CAA.
- The approved design standard for Factory Built Microlights can be found on the Type Approval Data Sheet (TADS). This stipulates the basic parameters for the aircraft including build standard reference, approved modifications and details such as control surface travel.
- Only a LAA inspector with an appropriate approval for Factory Built Microlights can certify any maintenance performed on these aircraft.
- Any Flight Testing of a Factory Built Microlight Aircraft, including permit renewal must be performed by a LAA accepted Factory Built Microlight Test Pilot.
- Factory Built Microlight Aircraft may be used for remunerated flight training, provided that both student and instructor belong to the same flying club that owns or operates the aircraft. (Provided this provision exists on the Permit to Fly conditions.)
- A Permit to Fly recommended for issue by the LAA can only be renewed by the LAA.

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Amendments to LAA Technical Leaflets Applicable to Factory Built Microlight Aircraft

The Technical Leaflets covering Building Aircraft (TL1.01, TL1.02) and Modifying Aircraft (TL3.01, 3.02) are not applicable to Factory Built Microlight aircraft. The changes to the Technical leaflets covering operation and maintenance of Factory Built Microlight Aircraft are amended as follows:

TL 2.01 Responsibilities of the Aircraft Owner

Para 1.1

- Only the manufacturer's approved maintenance schedule is acceptable for Factory Built Microlight aircraft. This covers airframe, engine, propeller and any other equipment.
- Only a LAA inspector with an appropriate approval for Factory Built Microlights can certify any maintenance performed on these aircraft.

Para 1.2

- Only a LAA inspector with an appropriate approval for Factory Built Microlights can certify any maintenance performed on these aircraft.

Para 1.3

- Only spare parts and consumables approved by the aircraft manufacturer for use on Factory Built Microlight Aircraft may be used on these aircraft.
- The approved design standard for Factory Built Microlights can be found on the Type Approval Data Sheet (TADS). This stipulates the basic parameters for the aircraft including build standard reference, approved modifications and details such as control surface travel.

Para 1.4

- Mandatory Bulletins issued by the CAA approved manufacturer can be taken to be LAA approved and LAA mandatory.

TL2.02 Paperwork Checklist - No additional conditions or changes

TL 2.03 Maintaining Your Own Aircraft

- Only a LAA inspector with an appropriate approval for Factory Built Microlights can certify any maintenance performed on these aircraft.

TL 2.04 Certification of Maintenance

- Only a LAA inspector with an appropriate approval for Factory Built Microlights can certify any maintenance performed on these aircraft.
- Only spare parts and consumables approved by the aircraft manufacturer for use on Factory Built Microlight Aircraft may be used on these aircraft.

TL 2.05 Pilot Authorised Maintenance

- On amateur built aircraft, Pilot Authorised Maintenance can only be performed by a pilot who is the owner of the aircraft. For Factory Built Microlights, pilot maintenance can also be performed by any Qualified Flying Instructor who is a permanent employee of the organisation that owns or operates the aircraft. Under this criteria, the pilot performing the maintenance is not required to be a LAA member.

TL 2.06 The Annual Permit Renewal Flight Test

- Any Flight Testing of a Factory Built Microlight Aircraft, including permit renewal must be performed by a LAA accepted Factory Built Microlight Test Pilot.
- Only a LAA inspector with an appropriate approval for Factory Built Microlights can certify any maintenance performed on these aircraft.

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TL 2.07 Conditions of a Permit to Fly

Para 1. Is amended to include the following;

- The second exception is applicable to Factory Built Microlight Aircraft. These may be used for remunerated flight training, provided that both student and instructor belong to the same flying club that owns or operates the aircraft. (Provided this provision exists on the Permit to Fly conditions.)

TL 2.08 Travelling abroad in a Permit to Fly Aircraft.

No additional conditions or changes

TL 2.09 Learning to Fly in a Permit to Fly Aircraft

Conditions 1 – 6 apply to amateur built and vintage aircraft on a LAA Permit. They also apply in principle to Factory Built Microlight aircraft with the exception of the elements related to remunerated flight training. In a Factory Built Microlight, you do not need to be the owner (or direct relative) to receive remunerated flight training. It is simply necessary for you and the instructor to belong to the same flying club as that which owns or operates the aircraft. (Provided this provision exists on the Permit to Fly conditions.)

2.10 A Permit to Fly compared with a C of A

Para 10.2

The second limitation is appended as follows:

- Aircraft cannot be used for Public Transport or Aerial work, except flight instruction where the aircraft is owned or operated by a club of which the student and instructors are members. (Provided this provision exists on the Permit to Fly conditions.)

Para 10.3

The second 'Benefit' is appended with the following:

- Only spare parts and consumables approved by the aircraft manufacturer for use on Factory Built Microlight Aircraft may be used on these aircraft.

2.11 Mandatory Placards and Labels

The Placard requirements for a Factory Built Microlight are the same as for an amateur built aircraft with one exception. Factory Built Microlight Aircraft must be fitted with the following additional Placard in full view of the Pilot;

<p>This aircraft is a LAA administered Factory Built Microlight. Maintenance and Operation must be conducted in accordance with the Approved Maintenance and Flight Manuals. Refer LAA Technical Leaflet TL 2.13</p>

2.12 Replacement of Lost Documents

No additional conditions or changes