

Safety Guidelines for Parasailing

Introduction

Parasailing, also known as parascending, or parakiting, is a recreational kiting activity where a person is towed behind a vehicle (usually a boat) while attached to a specially designed canopy wing known as a parasail wing. On land or over water the manned kite's moving anchor may be a car, truck, or boat; parasailing just by kiting in heavy winds is highly discouraged. The boat then drives off, carrying the parascender or wing and person into the air. If the boat is powerful enough, two or three people can parasail behind it at the same time. The parascender has little or no control over the parachute.

Basic minimum qualifications and experience

1. Parasail Drivers /Instructors must be highly experienced and have certification from a recognised National or International body.
2. They should have valid FA/CPR certification.

Equipment required

1. Parasail wings must have APCUL (Association des Constructeurs de Parapente Ultra Legers), DHV (Deutscher Hangegleiter Verband), CEN (European Committee for Standardization) or any certification recognised by FAI (Fédération Aéronautique Internationale). Such certification should be stitched on the wing and visible for inspection. Harness should also be certified.
2. If operating over water, a proper floatation device is to be used.
3. If operating over ground a certified helmet, knee and elbow protection must be used.

Equipment care and maintenance

A logbook of equipment and equipment maintenance to be kept.

Inspection & Maintenance Procedures

All commercially used equipment must be inspected annually.

SOP's & Operating Instructions

1. Passenger should be clearly briefed on basics of flight covering risks, staff introductions and training.
2. Passengers should sign liability release waiver.
3. Passenger /pilot should wear appropriate clothing that is safe and comfortable for the task and weather.
4. No aerobatic manoeuvres to be done with clients.
5. No overloading or under loading of equipment
6. Should fly conforming to VFR and in VMC. Cloud or night flying is strictly prohibited.
7. Any incident to be fully documented and reported.

Documentation

1. Certification and logbook
2. Equipment logbook and service record
3. Liability cover when and where available
4. Emergency Action Plan

Risk Mitigation

1. Operations to be undertaken at sites judged to be safe for parasailing operations.
2. Selected sites should not have any turbulence sources or hazards.
3. Life jacket to be mandatory if operating near water.
4. Parasail should be inspected annually
5. First Aid kit, stretcher (spinal board) and qualified staff should be available at the site.
6. Pilots should be First Aid /CPR certified
7. Emergency response time (ambulance) and distance to hospital should be clearly conveyed to passengers and emergency numbers available at location.
8. A detailed Emergency Action Plan should be in position and training for the same provided to staff periodically.

Emergencies & Rescues

1. Immediate first aid and proper equipment for stabilization and removal from life threatening situation.
2. Contact numbers for ambulance and other emergency services and evacuate at the very earliest

3. Get witness statements before debriefing them
4. Write your own report
5. Submit report and follow up on injured
6. Take immediate action to improve on any weakness in equipment or staff exposed by incident

Safety Briefing

All instructors and guides should be able to give a thorough safety briefing that covers all safety aspects and detailed instructions about a safe parasailing tour. This briefing must be clear and given in English, Hindi or the local language that passenger can understand.

1. Passengers should be briefed on equipment.
2. Briefing should cover emergency procedures.
3. Any sensitive parts within reach of passengers should be clearly marked and briefed upon appropriately.
4. Essential communication terms /signals should be explained.

Medical concerns

There should be clear declaration of medical conditions that are not suitable for parasailing by the operator. Any flight taken with differently abled passengers should be well planned, documented and reported in advance. All instructors and guides must be able to ensure that a question regarding medical issues is asked before the activity is conducted. It is recommended that heart patients, those with spinal issues, recent surgery or any other medical issue of concern, expecting mothers and under age children do not undertake the activity. It is also recommended to check for epilepsy and asthmatic patients, on extent of ailment.

Environment-friendly Practices - Refer to the [Guidelines for 'Leave Minimum Impact' practices.](#)

First- Aid Kit: [Indicative list of items for First-Aid Kit](#)