

FFVV, CIR12_295 Paris

31 May, 2012

To all Associations, CNVV, Instructors, GNAV, ANEPVV

Never again!

On May 5, 2012 a mid-air collision between a two-seater glider and a tug cost the lives of three of our comrades. During a French national championship, at the end of a great day of gliding our friends were sharing the pleasure of flying in a vintage glider, the pleasure in this two-seat open cockpit glider of "touching the air mass." The collision was of unprecedented violence leaving no chance to Yann, Jean and Jean-Louis, struck down in full flight. They totalled about thirty years each gliding along with thousands of flying hours, in flat country and in the mountains. The glider was not equipped with Flarm.

Never again!

48 mid-air collisions in our country since 1988! 30 glider pilots lost their lives, 14 were seriously injured.

Today the ability to effectively combat this risk exists. The federal measure mandating the Flarm in the Alps has shown its effectiveness, we must extend this throughout the country, in all our clubs, for all our gliders and tow planes.

Yes All! Even those who do not fly often, like vintage gliders... Yes this has a cost, but all clubs who have suffered these collisions have equipped their fleet, afterwards ... Of course it is not to question the concept of see and avoid, which remains the fundamental principle of flight. But Flarm is a valuable aid to the pilot in increasingly complex environment where human capacity may reach their limits.

The Executive Committee of the FFVV of May 12, 2012 has unanimously decided to mandate the carriage of Flarm type equipment in all aircraft used by affiliated clubs and also those of private owners associated with the FFVV. Gliders (classic, collectibles, aerobatic, micro-light type) powered sailplanes, all types of tugs (certified CNSK, CNRA, collection, ULM).

Also, the FFVV strongly encourages other entities to equip.

This decision is takes effect upon receipt of this letter and will be implemented no later than 1st March 2013.

This requirement is identical to that already in force for participation in any competition which is in the French competition calendar and is part of the overall process of improving the level of safe practice of gliding.

Regarding approval for tugs, an application for approval was made two years ago and we are awaiting an official approval from EASA. Meanwhile it is recognized that the Flarm can be installed and used under the same conditions as a portable GPS. All French Federation tugs are equipped.

To assist clubs and owners of gliders, the FFVV has bought 30 FLARM. These are available for rent at CNVV (St Auban).

We will also offer you the opportunity to have bulk order discounts on the two types of products (Swiss Flarm and LXFlarm).

(The clubs listed in ANEPVV can use their accident account for acquisitions of a FLARM by glider or tug.
[ANEPVV is a mutual insurance scheme for French clubs])

Safety must be our priority, no consideration should replace this goal, we must do our best to achieve it.

Yours sincerely,

Jean-Emile ROUAUX

President, FFVV

Copy: Quo Vadis, Tarade Aero Services, Puimoisson