

Paraglider Rating System

(courtesy of Eagle Paragliding www.EagleParagliding.com)

In general, paragliders are either given an EN or LTF rating. The LTF ratings include 1, 1-2, 2, 2-3, and competition, or 3. EN ratings are A, B, C, or D. A paraglider's rating can be viewed as the measurement of a glider's overall performance and handling. Among other things, the ratings are determined based on testing for how well they react and correct without any pilot input to different situations where the Paraglider leaves normal flight, such as asymmetric deflations. Wings that react more predictably (or recover to normal flight more quickly) from these situations are given a lower rating (*LTF-1, EN-A* being the lowest). Gliders that do not react quickly, or take a longer time to recover to normal flight get a higher rating (*LTF 2-3, or EN D*). Competition gliders (also called Open Class gliders) and Acro gliders are for the most part not rated by these rating organizations and are considered the formula one racers of the paragliding world. The competition gliders have the best glide ratios and speeds. However, the competition gliders are less stable than the beginner gliders and are flown by highly experienced pilots. It takes more work input by the pilot for a competition glider to recover to normal flight than it does with a beginner glider. All gliders are load tested to determine if they are strong enough to withstand the highest forces of paraglider flight. You can view the test results and other general data on gliders at the Para2000 web site. Below is a table that estimates the difference between each of these ratings:

	Beginner		Intermediate		Advanced		Expert	
CEN	A	B	C	D				
DHV / LTF	1	1-2	2	2-3	3			
AFNOR	Standard		Performance		Competition			

Who tests the gliders?

Paragliding manufacturers hire Agencies or Companies to test the gliders. These agencies or companies have a license to test and certify the gliders they test. Very experienced test pilots are the ones who fly the gliders.