

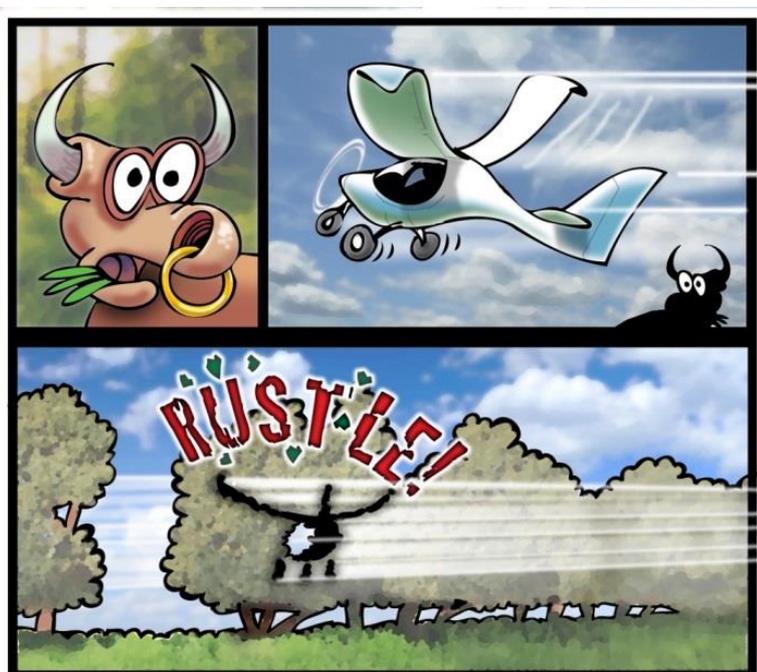
The Importance of Weight and Balance

Microlights are weighed for your safety. You must not underestimate the importance of accurately knowing the weight of your aircraft each time that they fly. The consequences of flying overweight are not always fully understood. A little thought and a simple calculation before flight might be the difference between a safe enjoyable trip, a large repair bill or worse!

Structural integrity:

Microlights are designed to be able to cope with flight and ground loads within the limits of their all-up weight.

Exceeding the design weight could lead to structural failure.



Take-off and Climb Performance:

Each microlight is fitted with an engine and propeller combination capable of giving an acceptable take-off performance at maximum weight. If the weight is exceeded climb performance may become dangerous!

Know what your aircraft weighs and fly safely and legally!

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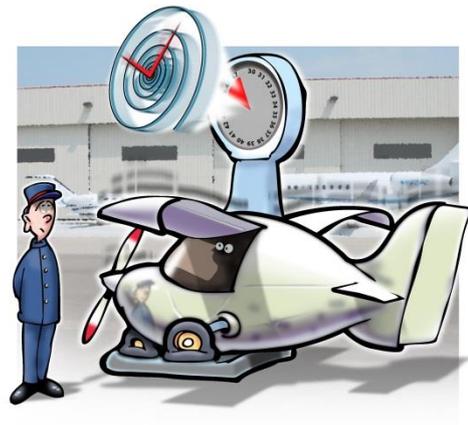
Centre of Gravity:

The distribution of the weight in a microlight is carefully calculated. If it is wrong it can lead to uncontrollable handling problems which can lead to loss of control during all stages of flight, never a good thing.



Enforcement:

There are laws in place to enforce the safety message and deter pilots from risking the safety of third parties. Non-compliance has many consequences. For example flying an overweight aircraft will invalidate insurance. **Think:** Do I have private funds to pay a multi-million pound passenger or third party award?



Be prepared: When you know what the aircraft weighs in the state that you will fly it today you can simply calculate the take-off weight and stay safe.

Items	Weights Kg	Today (e.g.)
Aircraft as weighed with options	235	235
Optional items	Doors -7Kg	
	Radio -0.5 Kg	
	GPS -0.6 Kg	
	Cushions -2 Kg	-2
Today actual aircraft weight today		233
Pilot		88
Passenger		92
Fuel @ .72/litre		35
Actual total ready to fly today		448

You can make up a simple table like this



to check your weight before you fly.

Know what your aircraft weighs and fly safely and legally!