

# Safety Alert

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**SZD Foka, Cobra, Bocian, Jaskolka  
Schempp-Hirth SHK, Austria series  
Any gliders with expanding pin/cone type main rigging pins**

An on going accident investigation has raised a possible issue with the rigging procedure on gliders incorporating an expanding pin/cone type main pin that owners and operators should be aware of.

The instructions contained in the flight manual must be followed exactly using only the approved tools and rigging aids.

When rigging gliders with the expanding pin/cone device ensure the spar joining lugs are properly aligned and if extra force is required to expand the pin/cone device **STOP** and establish why. It is probable that the wings are not correctly aligned or that the assembly has sustained mechanical damage or failure. On some aircraft this is very difficult to see. Expanding the pin into improperly aligned wings, or with a mechanical failure of the device, may give false indications of successful rigging. Up to the point of final engagement the operation of the expanding pin/cone device should be smooth and relatively easy, if you cannot operate it by hand there is probably something wrong.

It is strongly recommended to confirm the full engagement of all the elements of the pin/cone rigging device prior to flight.

It is strongly recommended that all persons involved with the rigging read the rigging instructions in the flight manual and carry out practice rigging under supervision of someone who is familiar with the aircraft.

**Jim Hammerton**  
Chief Technical Officer  
02 September 2010