

KNOW YOUR LIMITS ...

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This is the time of year when some pilots are fortunate enough to be flying in wave and along ridges, sometimes in challenging conditions and often at speed.

Of course all gliders have limitations including speed limits laid down by the designer, who will have used JAR-22 or more recently CS-22 as the basis of certification. Here's an extract from CS-22 (also published in the BGA theory manual, Gliding, published 2002);

	Speed	(IAS)	Remarks
V_{NE}	Never Exceed speed		Do not exceed this speed in any operation and do not use more than 1/3 of control deflection.
V_{RA}	Rough Air speed		Do not exceed this speed except in smooth air, and then only with caution. Examples of rough air are lee-wave rotor, thunderclouds etc.
V_A	Manoeuvring speed		Do not make full or abrupt control movement above this speed, because under certain conditions, the sailplane may be overstressed by full control movement.
V_{FE}	Maximum Flap Extended speed (If applicable, give different flap settings)		Do not exceed these speeds with the given flap setting.
V_W	Maximum Winch-launching speed		Do not exceed this speed during winch- or autotow-launching.
V_T	Maximum aerotowing speed		Do not exceed this speed during aerotowing.