

Paraglider Rating System

(courtesy of Eagle Paragliding www.EagleParagliding.com)

DHV stands for Deutscher Hangegleiter Verband, which is the German Hangliding and Paragliding Organization. In addition to serving the German flying community, the DHV has evolved as the industry standard for rating paraglider performance. However, within the last couple years, The **CEN** (**European Committee for Standardization**) has emerged as an alternative to the DHV. In January 2008, the PMA (Paragliding Manufacturers Association) made an agreement to change the name of glider ratings from DHV to LTF. Now, multiple testing companies are able to issue LTF ratings with the same standards.

Almost all paragliders have a LTF or EN rating. **AFNOR** is the French Association of Normalization which also rates paragliders (other rating organizations [listed below](#)). A paraglider's rating can be viewed as the measurement of a glider's overall performance and handling. Among other things, these testing agencies test wings for how well they react and correct without any pilot input to different situation where the Paraglider leaves normal flight, such as asymmetric deflations. Wings that react more predictably from these situations are given a lower rating (*LTF-1*, *EN-A*, or *AFNOR Standard* being the lowest). You can view the test results and other general data on gliders at the [Para2000](#) web site. Based on the results of the testing performed by these rating organizations, a glider is given a rating. The LTF ratings include 1, 1-2, 2, 2-3, and competition, or 3. CEN's ratings are A, B, C, or D. AFNOR's ratings are Standard, Performance, or Competition. 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	

Competition 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 and experience to keep a competition glider from taking deflations than it does with a beginner glider. The beginner gliders are the most stable and react less dynamically to incidents previously mentioned.

There are other organizations that rate gliders, such as the SHV. However, as the paragliding industry continues to evolve, so does its standards. Learn more about the future of [Paraglider Certification](#).

PMA – Paragliding Manufacturers Association.

DHV – German Hangliding and Paragliding Association.

CEN – European Committee for Standardization

AFNOR – French Institute for Standardization

FFVL – French Hang Gliding and Paragliding Association

SHV-FSVL – Swiss Hang Gliding & Paragliding Association / Swiss Free Flight Federation