



**GNSS FLIGHT RECORDER APPROVAL COMMITTEE (GFAC)
FAI INTERNATIONAL GLIDING COMMISSION (IGC)**
of the
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References: See para (i-iv) below

To: IGC GNSS web site under "IGC-approval Documents"
GFAC Chairman's web site
FR Manufacturer; info to igc-news@fai.org, news@fai.org, rec.aviation.soaring

Date of issue: 24 March 2021

IGC-APPROVAL DOCUMENT FOR GNSS FLIGHT RECORDER

Recorder Name: LX Navigation DX50
Level of Approval: IGC Level 3 - see Para (i-ii) below

(i) General. This document gives IGC-approval from the above date for the Recorder equipment described below to be used for validation of flights under the FAI Sporting Code Section 3 (Gliders and Motor Gliders), subject to the conditions and notes given later. Only the terms of the latest IGC-approval documents currently posted on the IGC web site are valid for use in IGC/FAI claims. IGC reserves the right to alter this approval in the future.

(i-i) Document history. The original IGC-approval document for the DX50 was dated 19 May 1998 under the Filser name. Amendments were dated 16 November 1988 and 10 December 2001, the latter adding the JRC GPS receiver board. In February 2008 Filser withdrew from the IGC FR area and the manufacturer's name in IGC documents was changed to LX Navigation who were the original design authority (DA) for this FR, contracted by Filser. The 2011 FR Security paper by the ANDS and GFA Committees resulted in a reduction to "Diamonds", made in two stages, to "All Badges" on 1 October 2012 and to "Diamonds" on 1 October 2013. The reference to the FAI/IGC web site and the manufacturer details were updated on 1 February 2020 and on 24 May 2020 a new para (i-iv) was added with directions to the current web sites for documents related to the FR IGC-approval process, and the GFAC Chairman's new email address on page 4. This version adds the Filser codes at the top of page 2 that are used in FRs produced before 2008.

(i-ii) IGC-approval Levels. This is IGC level 3 - flights for IGC Silver and Gold badges and the three Diamonds. The Levels of IGC-approval are listed in para 1.1.4 of Annex B to the Sporting Code for Gliding (SC3B), and cover the use of FRs in flights for FAI/IGC badges, diplomas, records and in competitions.

(i-iii) GNSS System. The Global Navigation Satellite System (GNSS) used in this Recorder is the US Global Positioning System (GPS).

(i-iv) Current web sites. References for the latest versions of documents relating to IGC-approval of FRs (including the latest version of this document) are given in para 2 on page 1 of the main table that lists all IGC-approvals. The latest version of the table is available through www.fai.org/igc-documents and the GFAC Chairman's web site www.ukiws.uk/GFAC. The detailed references are placed in the main FR table rather than in each IGC-approval document, so that if the reference changes, only the main table has to be updated rather than all IGC-approval documents.

(ii) This IGC-approval document is concerned with the functions of the equipment that record data. More specifically, with the accuracy and reliability of recorded data for the exclusive sole purpose of validation and certification of flight performances to the criteria of IGC and FAI. FAI is the legal entity and Swiss law applies. FAI Commissions such as IGC are agents of FAI; GFAC and its advisors are agents of IGC. Tests made by GFAC on behalf of IGC and FAI concern accuracy and security of data, transfer and conversion to and conformity of the output data with the standard IGC file format in relation to the validation and certification purposes mentioned above. Other functions of the equipment are not part of this IGC-approval and the relevance of this document does not extend beyond the specific validation and certification purposes mentioned above. In particular this applies to any function linked with aspects that could be critical to flight safety such as navigation, airspace avoidance, terrain avoidance and any aircraft proximity-warning and/or anti-collision functions. This document does not constitute any approval, guarantee and/or any statement by GFAC, IGC and/or FAI as to the reliability or accuracy of the equipment for operation in flight and any liability in connection therewith is hereby expressly excluded.

(iii) This approval is not concerned with, and FAI has no responsibility for, matters related to: (a) Intellectual Property (IP) and Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) and/or, (b) the relations of the Manufacturer listed below with any other entities except with FAI and its agents or as they affect FAI, its agents and this approval.

(iv) The attention of National Airspace Control (NAC) authorities, officials and pilots is drawn to the latest edition of the FAI Sporting Code Section 3 (Gliding) including its annexes and amendments. Annex A to this Code (SC3A) deals with competition matters, annex B to the Code (SC3B) with equipment used in flight validation, Annex C to the Code (SC3C) with guidelines and procedures for Official Observers, pilots, and other officials involved in the flight validation process. Copies of all of these documents may be obtained from the FAI/IGC web sites listed above and links are provided from the IGC web site. A separate document is entitled "Technical Specification for IGC-Approved Flight Recorders" and is also available through the IGC/GNSS web site shown above.

(v) It is recommended that a copy of this approval including its two annexes is kept with each unit of the equipment so that it is available for pilots and Official Observers.

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IGC Manufacturer Codes: Single letter: L, three letters: LXN (FRs produced before 2008 use the Filser Codes F and FIL, see the note below)

Note: IGC-approvals for this type of FR were under the Filser name until February 2008 when Filser withdrew from the FR business area. The Design Authority (DA) for this type of FR was LX Navigation (details above), contracted by Filser. Filser Electronic now operates as Funkwerk Avionics GmbH and is no longer involved in IGC FRs.

1. **HARDWARE.** The recorder is designed to be installed in an instrument panel.

1.1 **Hardware Versions.** IGC-approval applies to Hardware version 3.0 (V3.0) or later. The version number is shown in on the LCD on start-up on the first line after "DX 50". This is also shown in the header record of IGC-format flight files in the form "HF RHW HARDWARE VERSION: 3.0". For manufacturer notification of updates, see para 11.

1.2 **Dimensions & Weight.** The Recorder has a rectangular metal case with a panel size about 190 x 96 mm and a depth of 60 mm, and weighs about 700 grammes. It is designed to fit in a glider instrument panel and an additional detachable back-panel clamps to the back.

1.3 **Connectors, Screens, Buttons.** A 15-pin male RS232 connector and a 9mm BNC bayonet-type antenna connection are on the back, together with two tubes for pitot and total energy connections. The instrument panel face has two LCDs (60 x 45 mm on the left, used for FR menus and navigation display, 51 x 51 mm on the right, used for variometer and glide calculator functions), 10 buttons below the LCDs, and a further 4 buttons on the right hand side. Note that the Recorder equipment is integrated with a glide calculator and variometer system in the same case. These other systems have not been evaluated as part of this approval and are a matter between the customer and the manufacturer.

1.4 **GPS receiver boards.** Originally a Motorola 8-channel GPS receiver board was fitted and after September 2001, the Japan Radio Corporation JRC/CCA-450 12 channel board. The receiver type is shown in the header record of IGC files in the form "HFGPS: Motorola Oncore" which can be seen by using a text editor to view the start of the IGC file.

1.5 **Pressure altitude sensor.** The Intersema (Switzerland) MS 5534-AP barometer module is fitted. This is compensated for temperature variation and calibrated to the ICAO ISA. The recorder case is not pressure-sealed and "cockpit static" pressure is recorded on the IGC file. The type of sensor is shown in the header record of IGC-format flight files in the form "HFPRSPRESSALTSSENSOR: IntersemaMS5534AP". The header record can be seen by using a text editor to view the start of the IGC file. A further pressure sensor is used for the instrument display, has a variable datum that can be set by the pilot, and is connected to glider static through a tube at the back.

1.5 **National and other regulations.** These may apply to electrical and electronic equipment. Compliance with such regulations is not the responsibility of FAI. It is understood that this equipment has the EU "CE" mark that implies compliance with EU directives on EMC and voltages.

1.6 **Other modules.** Other modules such as for cockpit in-flight displays may be connected but are not part of this IGC-approval and are a matter between the manufacturer and the customer.

2. **FIRMWARE.** IGC-approval applies to Firmware version 3.0 (V3.0) or later. . The firmware version is shown on the LCD on start-up on the first line after "DX 50". It is also shown in the header record of IGC files in the form "HFRFW Firmware Version:3.0" and can be seen by using a text editor to view the start of the IGC file. For manufacturer notification of updates, see para 11.

3. **SOFTWARE.** Program files for this recorder for Downloading, Conversion to the IGC format and Validating IGC flight data files, are available from the IGC GNSS web site: www.fai.org/igc-documents under the heading "IGC shell program download"

3.1 **Program file functions.**

3.1.1 **DATA-LXN.EXE** - this file is for transferring flight data from the recorder to a PC and produces a *.FIL or *.LXN binary file and an IGC file for each flight.

3.1.2 **CONV-LXN.EXE** - this file is for conversion of a *.FIL or *.LXN flight data file to the IGC format, if this has not been done.

3.1.3 **VALI-LXN.EXE** - this file is for validation by NACs and FAI of the security and integrity of the *.IGC files.

3.1.4 **Windows-based IGC Shell & DLL system.** For this FR, the file IGC-LXN.DLL is available from the web site given below in 3.3.

3.2 **Validity of Flight Data.** The IGC standard for electronic flight data is that the IGC file must pass the IGC VALIDATE check. That is, by using the VALI-LXN.exe program function with the IGC file in the same directory and interrogating the IGC file that is to be Validated, or using the Windows-based Shell system and IGC-LXN.DLL. This checks that the IGC file has correctly originated from the recorder and that it is identical to when it was initially downloaded. See B4.2 for more details.

3.3 **Manufacturer's Files and the IGC Shell Program.** The DLL file is copyright of the FR manufacturer but is freeware. The IGC Shell program is freeware and can be used with FR manufacturers' DLL files though a single menu. The latest versions must be used and are available from www.fai.org/igc-documents under "Flight Recorders", then "IGC Shell Program for Validation of IGC files".

4. **Connections.** All connectors are at the opposite end of the case to the instrument face.

4.1 External antenna to 9mm BNC bayonet-fitting.

4.2 Other functions to a custom-wired 24mm wide 15-pin male plug.

4.3 Pressure connections consist of three tubes, one for pitot pressure, one for static pressure, and one for total energy static. Another sensor is used for the pressure altitude recorded on the IGC flight file is vented inside the case of the FR and so records "cockpit static" pressure, like a conventional barograph.

4.4 Optional backplate. A specially-designed backplate can be attached which carries a custom-wired external cable connects to a 12 volt battery and also to a 9-pin female RS232 socket for connecting to the PC COM port.

5 **Security of the Equipment.** GFAC is presently satisfied with the physical and electronic security of this equipment in terms of the integrity of the recorded flight data and the level of this approval for the types of flights concerned. GFAC reserves the right to inspect production-standard equipment for security, compliance with the IGC Specification and the calibration of sensors such as for pressure altitude.

6 **Installation in a glider.** Although the recorder is designed to be installed in an instrument panel, from the point of view of data recording, the unit may be fitted anywhere in the glider, subject to para 9 on sealing. If the GPS antenna is accessible to the crew in flight, no attempt must be made to inject false data and any abuse of this may lead to a future requirement to place the antenna out of reach of the flight crew.

6.1 **Sight Lines.** Particularly in single-seat gliders, the position of the recorder displays should not be remote from sight lines used for pilot lookout and scan for other aircraft and gliders.

7. **Motor gliders.** No engine sensing system is fitted to this type of recorder, so any Means of Propulsion (MoP) must either be sealed or inoperative, or a separate IGC-approved Means of Propulsion (MoP) recorder fitted.

8. **Check of Installation in the Glider.** This system is designed for mounting in the instrument panel. Even so, there must be incontrovertible evidence that the Recorder was in the glider for the flight concerned, and was installed in accordance with IGC procedures. This can be achieved either: by observation at takeoff or landing, or by sealing the Recorder to the glider at any time or date before takeoff and checking the seal after landing. As this system is designed primarily for panel mounting, a signed and dated OO's seal applied to the recorder at an appropriate place on or behind the instrument panel, will fulfil this requirement until the seal may require replacement due to damage or wear.

8.1 **Observation of Installation before Takeoff or at Landing.** If manual Observation is to be employed (instead of sealing, see 8.2 below), there are two ways to ensure that the installation is in accordance with the rules, and that another Recorder has not been substituted before the data is transferred to a PC. One of the following must be carried out:

8.1.1 A pre-flight check of the installation is made and the glider is under continuous observation by an OO until it takes off on the claimed flight,

8.1.2 An OO witnesses the landing and has the glider under continuous observation until the Recorder installation is checked.

8.2 **Sealing to the Glider before Flight.** If para 8.1 cannot be met, the Recorder must be sealed to the glider by an OO at any time or date before flight so that it cannot be removed without breaking the seal. The sealing method must be acceptable to the NAC and IGC. Paper seals must be marked in a manner such that there is incontrovertible proof after the flight that seals have not been tampered with, such as by marking with the glider registration, the date, time and OO's name and signature. It should be possible for the OO to recognise the seal markings afterwards. The use of adhesive plastic tape is not satisfactory for IGC-approved sealing because it can be peeled off and re-fitted. Gummed paper tape is recommended, as used for sealing drum-type barographs. The OO must seal the Recorder unit to glider parts that are part of the minimum standard for flight. It is accepted that such parts can be removed for purposes such as servicing; such parts include the canopy frame, instrument panel, and centre-section bulkhead fittings. If the Recorder is sealed to such removable part, if such a part is transferred between gliders, any Recorder seal for the previous glider must be removed.

9 **Security Seals, Physical and Electronic.**

9.1 **Physical Security.** A silver-coloured tamper-evident seal with the European CE Mark and the manufacturer's name (which may be "Filsler"), is fitted over at least one of the case securing screws. In addition, an internal security mechanism activates if the case of the Recorder is opened.

9.1.1 **Sealing of data ports and plugs:** no present requirement, but no attempt must be made to pass unauthorised data into the recorder.

9.2. **Electronic Security.** If the internal security mechanism has been activated (such as by opening the case), any data in the memory will be lost, settings will revert to defaults, and the electronic security algorithms in the Recorder will be erased. Any flight data files produced after this will fail the IGC Validate test for electronic security. This test will also fail if the *.LXN or *.IGC file has been altered in any way after being transferred from the Recorder.

9.3 **Recorder found to be unsealed.** If either physical or electronic security is found to have failed, the Recorder must be returned to the manufacturer or his appointed agent for investigation and resealing. A statement should be included on how the unit became unsealed.

9.3.1 **Checks before re-sealing.** Whenever any unit is resealed, the manufacturer or agent must carry out positive checks on the internal programs and wiring, and ensure that they work normally. If any evidence is found of tampering or unauthorised modification, a report must be made by the manufacturer or agent to the Chairman of GFAC and to the NAC of the owner. The IGC approval of that individual unit will be withdrawn until the unit is re-set and certified to be to the IGC-approved standard.

10. **Analysis of Flight Data**. Analysis for flights to be validated to IGC criteria should be through the use of a program that complies with IGC rules and procedures, and is approved for this purpose by the relevant NAC. For a list of programs which are capable of reading and displaying flight data in the *.IGC file format, see the fai.org/gliding/gnss web site under the link to SOFTWARE (the full web reference is at the beginning of this document). Before a Flight Performance is officially validated, the authority responsible for validation must check that the data in the *.IGC file has originated from the Recorder concerned, and has not been altered after it was download from the Recorder to a PC. This is done by checking the IGC data file with an authorised copy of the VALI-LXN.EXE short program. The VALI program file must have originated from the current FAI/IGC web site for software listed at the beginning of this document. See Annex B for detail on how to use the validate systems.

11. **Manufacturer's Changes to Hardware, Firmware and Software**. Notification of any intended change to hardware, firmware or software must be made by the manufacturer to the Chairman of GFAC so that a decision can be made on any further testing which may be required to retain IGC-approval for the change. This includes details of later versions of hardware, firmware and software, also any changes to modules such as the GPS receiver, pressure altitude transducer, the layout of the security microswitch and any other factor that could affect the security of the FR and the IGC files produced from it.

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Annexes: A. Notes for owners and pilots.
B. Notes for Official Observers and NACs

Annex A to IGC Approval - NOTES FOR OWNERS AND PILOTS

A(i) Status. This Annex should be read together with the main terms of approval earlier in this document.

A(ii) IGC-Approval level. See page 1 heading "Level of Approval".

A(iii) Copy of this document. It is recommended that a copy of this approval document is kept with the equipment, for the use of pilots and OOs.

Pilot's Responsibility. It is the responsibility of the pilot to ensure or to note the following:

A1 Antenna - The antenna should be positioned in order to give sufficient signal strength for IGC purposes. No attempt must be made to inject false data via the antenna; any abuse of this may lead to a future requirement to position antennas out of reach of the flight crew.

A2 Geodetic Datum (Earth Model). For IGC purposes, all latitudes and longitudes recorded by the Recorder must be to a Geodetic Datum (earth model) of WGS84. **In DX50 versions before V5.0, it is possible to modify the Geodetic Datum through a password system, and pilots must ensure that WGS84 is set.** Once set, or in V5.0 and later, no pilot action is required except to ensure that other lat/long data such as for start, turn and finish points, is also entered to the WGS84 Geodetic Datum (IGC rule).

A3 Setting the Fix Interval. The fast-fix facility operates when the Pilot Event (PEV) button is pressed and gives the number and interval of fixes that were set before flight by the pilot through the setup program under the heading "On event button". The fix interval for cruise flight between PEV events (such as between Waypoints) is set by the pilot before flight through the set-up program under the heading "Normal operation". There is therefore no need to set a very short fix interval for cruise flight because points of interest can be marked by PEV events and take advantage of the fast fix facility. Setting a short fix interval for cruise flight leads to IGC files of large byte size, particularly for long flights. This uses up more of the recorder's memory, causes downloading after flight to take a long time, increases the chance of data corruption and may also cause problems with some analysis programs because of the large number of fixes that have to be processed.

A3.1 IGC rules. IGC rules on fix intervals for cruise flight are an absolute maximum of 60 seconds (SC3 para 4.3.1 and Annex C to SC3, para 7.1) and 10 seconds for competitions complying with Annex A to SC3 (SC3A para 5.4C). SC3C para 7.1 says: "10 to 20 seconds has been found to be suitable, and does not use up as much memory as a more frequent setting for the whole flight. A more frequent fix interval is recommended near each Waypoint to ensure that a fix is recorded within its observation zone".

A4 Checking Recorder operation before a Claim Flight. Pilots should check and analyse a selection of IGC files from their recorder before attempting flights that will require Validation. This is to ensure that the recorder is performing correctly and in accordance with this approval. Particularly that GPS fixes, pressure altitude and other values are recorded as expected. See A13 on pressure altitude calibration.

A5 Recorder installation in the glider. Although the normal installation will be fixed in the glider instrument panel, the pilot must ensure that an OO has checked the place of the equipment in the glider and how it is fixed to the glider. If it may be difficult to obtain an OO immediately before takeoff, or to witness the landing, an OO should be asked to seal the Recorder to the glider, and **this can be done at any time or date before flight**. See para 8 in the conditions of approval. Regarding the position of displays concerned with the Recorder, see para 6 in the Conditions of Approval which refers to sight-lines and the need for pilot lookout and scan.

A6 Check of Takeoff Independent of the Recorder. The pilot must ensure that the time and point of takeoff has been witnessed and recorded in a way independent of the recorder, for comparison with takeoff data in the IGC file from the recorder, see para B2.

A7 Connection to data Ports and connectors. Although this approval does not presently require sealing of any ports or connectors in or on the recorder, no attempt must be made to pass unauthorised data into the Recorder, either on the ground or in flight. Para 9.1.1 in the Conditions of Approval, refers.

A8 Use in Motor Gliders (including self-sustainers): No engine sensing system is fitted to this model, so any Means of Propulsion (MoP) must either be sealed or inoperative, or a separate IGC-approved MoP recorder must be used.

A9 After Landing. Until an OO has witnessed the Recorder installation to the glider, the pilot must not alter the installation or remove the Recorder from the glider. The pilot must ensure that there is evidence of the landing independent of the FR data.

A9.1 After-flight calculation of security. After landing, the recorder calculates a digital signature for the IGC file for the flight, using the RSA Public/Private Key (PPK) encryption system. This process places security codes at the end of each IGC file, which is then complete and stored in the memory ready for downloading. These codes are used to verify the integrity of the whole file at any later time by using the Validate function (see paras 9.2 and 10 before the Annexes).

A10 Check of Landing Independent of the Recorder. The pilot must ensure that the time and point of landing has been witnessed and recorded in a way independent of the recorder, for comparison with the IGC file data from the recorder (see para B3.1).

A11 Turning Off. This is by switching off the external power or disconnecting the RS232 connector from the recorder.

A12 **Downloading the Flight Data**. So that there will be no need to disturb the panel mounting or any sealing of the recorder to the glider, a portable PC (laptop/notebook) will be needed to download the flight data at the glider, pre-loaded with the appropriate download program, preferably tested beforehand. The OO will carry out the actions given in para B3.3, and the OO's copy of the transferred flight data is sent to the organisation that will validate the flight, such as the National Airsport Control authority (NAC). The OO does not personally have to transfer the data from the Recorder, but witnesses the transfer and takes or is given a copy on standard electronic storage media such as a memory stick, diskette or equivalents. Different rules may apply for competition flights, for which a central data transfer facility may be used, but for a flight to the rules for IGC records and badges, the above continues to apply.

A12.1 **Use of Portable PC at the glider**. The PC used may be owned by the pilot or any other person. The PC should be set up for ease of data transfer. Transfer of flight data is witnessed by the OO, and the flight files in IGC format must be given to the OO for safe keeping and analysis on standard electronic media such as a memory stick, diskette or equivalents.

A13 **Calibration of Barograph Function**. Pilots are advised to have a barograph (pressure altitude) calibration carried out either by the manufacturer or by an NAC-approved calibrator before any GNSS Recorder is used for a claimed flight performance. For the procedure, see para B6. A valid IGC-format file showing the pressure steps used in the calibration must be recorded and kept (Sporting Code rule). Altitude and height claims require a calibration for the flight performance concerned, and speed and distance claims need a calibration for calculating the altitude difference of the glider at the start and finish points. Also, the NAC or FAI may wish to compare pressure altitudes recorded on the Recorder for takeoff and at landing, with QNH pressures for the appropriate times recorded by a local meteorological office.

B(i) Status. This Annex should be read together with the main terms of approval earlier in this document.

B(ii) IGC-Approval level. See page 1 heading "Level of Approval".

B(iii) Copy of this document. It is recommended that a copy of this approval document is kept with the equipment, for the use of pilots and OOs.

B1 Installation in the Glider. Although this Recorder will normally be installed in the instrument panel, it must be ensured that, for the flight concerned, it was not transferred from one glider to another, or from a powered aircraft to a glider. Therefore, an Official Observer (OO) shall witness and record the position of the Recorder in the glider, the type and serial number of the Recorder, the glider type and registration, date and time. There are two ways of doing this, by manual observation at the time, or by sealing the recorder to the glider. See also para 8 before the annexes:

B.1.1 Observation of Installation before Takeoff or at Landing. If manual Observation is to be employed (instead of sealing, see 8.2 below), one of the following must be carried out:

B1.1.1 A pre-flight check of the installation is made and the glider is under continuous observation by an OO until it takes off on the claimed flight, or,

B1.1.2 An OO witnesses the landing and has the glider under continuous observation until the Recorder installation is checked.

B1.2 Sealing. The OO shall seal the Recorder to the glider in a way acceptable to his NAC and to IGC, and such sealing may be at any time or date before flight. This is to ensure that the installation is correct, and another Recorder has not been substituted in the glider before the data transfer (B3.3). See para 8 of the Conditions of Approval.

B2 Takeoff – Evidence independent of the Recorder. The time and point of takeoff shall be recorded, either by an OO, other reliable witnesses, or by other means such as an Air Traffic Control or official Club log of takeoffs and landings. After flight, this will be compared to the takeoff data from the Recorder. This comparison is an important check on the integrity of the data in the IGC file and, combined with the IGC VALI check, indicates that it has not been made up before the flight.

B3 Landing

B3.1 Landing - Evidence independent of the Recorder. The time and point of landing shall be recorded, either by an OO, other reliable witnesses, or by other means such as an Air Traffic Control or official Club log of takeoffs and landings. After flight, this will be compared to the landing data from the Recorder. This comparison is an important check on the integrity of the data in the IGC file and, combined with the IGC VALI check, indicates that it has not been made up before the flight.

B3.2 Checking the Installation of the Recorder. As soon as practicable after landing, an OO shall inspect the installation of the Recorder in the glider (including any sealing to the glider), so that this can be compared to the check described in para B1 above. The transfer of flight data shall then take place in accordance with B3.3.

B3.3 Transferring the Flight Data. If the installation is in the instrument panel, a portable PC will be required at the recorder to download the flight data at the glider without disturbing the installation. If the OO is not familiar with the actions required, the pilot or another person may transfer the data while the OO witnesses the process. Security is maintained by electronic coding embedded in the Recorder which places a security record at the end of the IGC file that is then independently checked later at the NAC (and at FAI if the claim goes to them).

B3.3.1 Methods. Connect the PC to the data port at the back of the recorder. For downloading, use either a current version of the short program file DATA-LXN.EXE, or use a current version of the LXN LXFAI program.

B3.3.1.1 DATA-LXN file. The file DATA-LXN.exe is available free from the IGC GNSS web site for software given at the beginning of this document, or through a link from the main IGC/GNSS site. The file DATA-LXN.EXE can be executed on either storage media such as a USB memory stick, floppy diskette or on the PC hard disk. The software version is shown at the top of the menu (see under software on page 1, which gives the relevant versions). This program file executes in the normal way such as either by typing at a DOS prompt DATA-FIL, enter; or by to be changed, the help menu is accessed by typing the file name, space, hyphen, then the letter h.

B3.3.1.2 LXFAI Program. For the LXFAI program, follow the instructions given in the menu.

B3.4 Flight data files produced. This process will automatically produce both a binary-format file and an *.IGC-format flight data file. Both have the file name YMDCXXXF, where Y=year, M=month, D=day, C= manufacturer, XXX = Recorder Serial number/letters and F= flight number of the day. The full key to the file name is in Appendix 1 to the IGC GNSS Recorder Specification and is also listed in Annex C to the Sporting Code, SC3C. Because this recorder was originally under the Filser name, the intermediate binary file may have the suffix FIL and the manufacturer's single letter code may be F.

B3.5 OO's Copy. A copy of both the *.LXN or *.FIL binaries and the *.IGC file shall be retained securely by the OO such as by immediately copying them to a separate PC memory stick or diskette, or by the use of the OO's own PC. These files shall be retained by the OO in safe keeping for later checking and analysis under NAC/IGC procedures.

B3.6 Competitions. Different rules may apply for competition flights, for which a central data transfer facility may be used. For ease of identification within the competition, file names may be changed, for instance to the glider competition number or the pilot's name. Integrity of data within the file is preserved by the electronic security system and may be checked at any time by using the IGC file validation system.

B4 Analysis of Flight Data Files. A Data Analyst approved by the NAC will then evaluate the flight using an analysis program approved by the NAC concerned (list, see the IGC GNSS web site under SOFTWARE). There are two aspects to data analysis, (1) checking the flight performance that is being claimed by looking at the fixes and other data in the IGC file, and (2) Validation of the integrity of the downloaded data itself.

B4.1 Checking the claimed Flight Performance. As well as checking the flight performance for requirements such as presence in the Observation Zones of Waypoints such as Start, Turn and Finish Points, the takeoff and landing position and time data recorded in the IGC file must closely correspond with takeoff and landing times and positions recorded independently (see B2 and B3.1). In recorders in which the Geodetic Datum can be changed, it must be shown that the WGS84 Datum was set for the duration of the flight.

B4.2 Validation of Flight Data. The IGC Validation system checks three elements. (1) That the flight data in the IGC file is identical to that originally downloaded from the Recorder That is, that data has not been changed after the initial download. (2) Checks the electronic security coding and general structure of the IGC file. (3) Checks that the Recorder has not been modified in an unauthorised way.

B4.3 Validation Method. Use the VALI-LXN.exe program file or the IGC-LXN.DLL shell program - these are available from the IGC GNSS web site. For more detail, see para B3.3.1. This system shall be used by the OO, the competition organisers, or the NAC as appropriate.

B5 Motor gliders. No engine sensing system is fitted to this type of recorder, so any Means of Propulsion (MoP) must either be sealed or inoperative, or a separate IGC-approved MoP recorder fitted.

B6 Altitude analysis and calibration. Flight data files will be analysed in accordance with Sporting Code procedures. Part of this is to compare the general shapes of the GNSS and pressure altitude fix records with time and to ensure that no major differences are seen that could indicate malpractice or manufactured (false) data. As part of this process, the Recorder can be calibrated in an altitude chamber in the same way as a drum barograph.

B6.1 Calibration method, making a calibration table. Before a calibration, the normal fix rate should be set to a small time interval such as 2 seconds. Recording starts after a pressure change of about 1 metre per second for 5 seconds, and no GPS fixes are required for a pressure altitude trace to be produced. The calibrator should be advised to make a short pressure change to trigger (start) the recording of fixes, before starting the calibration itself. The calibrator will record the pressure steps used, for later comparison with the flight file. The stabilised pressure immediately before the altitude is changed to the next level, will be taken as the appropriate value unless the calibrator certifies otherwise.

B6.1.1 After the calibration - the data file containing the pressure steps is transferred to a PC as if it was flight data (see B2.3 above). This may be done by an NAC-approved person other than the calibrator who may not have this knowledge. The IGC format calibration data file will then be analyzed, compared to the calibration pressure steps, and a correction table produced and authenticated by an NAC-approved person (for instance an OO or GNSS Recorder Data Analyst). The correction table will list true against indicated altitudes. This table can then be used to adjust pressure altitudes which are recorded during flight performances and which require correction before validation to IGC criteria. These include takeoff, start and landing altitudes for altitude difference and for comparison with independently-recorded QNH readings, and low and high points on gain-of-height and altitude claims. Only pressure altitude is valid for IGC altitude purposes except for proof of flight continuity (no intermediate landing) where GNSS altitude may also be used if pressure altitude is not available.

B6.2 GPS altitude figures recorded in the IGC file. Occasional short-duration differences in the shape of the GPS Altitude/time graph have been noted compared to the pressure altitude figures. This is not unusual with GPS receivers operating without a local differential beacon or regional augmentation system. The altitude accuracy from satellite-based systems will not be as good as accuracy in lat/long. Because the geometry of the position-lines is not as favourable for altitude compared to horizontal position. This effect will be increased by poor antenna positioning. Data analysts and NAC officials should allow for the above when comparing the GPS altitude and pressure altitude records. Lat/long fix accuracy is not affected and tests on this recorder show it to be typical of that for a 12 channel GPS system. From GFAC tests after 1 May 2000 when the GPS Selective Availability error was removed for civilian receivers, errors average between 11 and 12m. This is the average lat/long error taken from a sample of fixes from a moving vehicle at a number of surveyed points near 51N 001W for all recorders with 12 or more channels tested since that date.

B6.3 Maximum Altitudes Recorded in the IGC file. The pressure altitude sensor and the GPS system itself are capable of recording to almost unlimited altitudes, certainly up to 30km/100,000ft. However, the type of processor in the recorder and the need for good resolution (lack of large steps) across the altitude range, results in limitations in altitudes that can be recorded in the IGC file. The maximum altitudes for figures in IGC files that apply to this recorder are given below.

B6.3.1 Pressure Altitude. Pressure altitude is recorded up to 11 km (36,089 ft).

B6.3.2 GPS Altitude. GPS altitude is recorded up to 18 km (59,055ft).
