

PNGC

Retrieve Driver Syllabus

Only persons holding a Full UK driving license and authorised by the duty instructor, CFI, or Ground Engineering Manager may train retrieve drivers

1. Basic vehicle control

Retrieve drivers may be too young to hold a UK driving license and it is therefore important they are taught proper car control to UK driving test standards

- Correct seating position
- Use of brake
- Use of automatic gear box
- Proper use of throttle
- Steering

2. Vehicle Daily Inspection

- As per daily inspection check sheet

3. Speed Control

- Must be able to maintain 20mph, without use of cruise control, for the entire length of the airfield

4. Accurate driving

- Must be able to maintain straight line between winch and launch point

5. Safety Procedures

- Safe parking at winch, min 10M safety zone
- Loss of cable on tow out
- Aircraft on approach, SLOW to a full stop and wait. Restart only on radio call from winch.
- Crossed and bowed cables

6. Radio Signals

- Correct VHF protocol

7. Hitching up cables

- Positioning of vehicle
- Correct use of weak links
- Replacement of weak links

8. Up Slack

- Wait for winch drive to be seated in the cab

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- Do not move off if anyone is within 10 meters of cable or winch
 - Only move off once winch driver gives “breaks set, up slack” radio call
 - Move forward at idle, check cables come tight and hold the vehicle stationary
9. All Out
- Gentle acceleration to 20MPH
 - Maintain straight line to drop off point. Normally between gliders waiting at the launch point. If not as briefed by duty instructor
10. Slowdown at launch point
- Progressively reduce speed as launch point is approached
 - Stop by waiting glider wing tip, without use of brake
11. Cable Drop Off
- Reverse as directed
 - Put car into PARK
 - Wait for “all clear” before moving off
12. Cable Break Procedure
- Finding the broken end
 - Secure to vehicle and tow to winch
13. Clearing the runway
- Call for help if required