

SECTION 6

EQUIPMENT

1. PARACHUTES - GENERAL

- 1.1.** All sport parachutists intending to make a descent are to be equipped with a minimum of two airworthy parachutes attached to a common harness, except Student Tandem Parachutists who must be attached to a Tandem Instructor. Jumpmasters or instructors not intending to make a parachute descent must be equipped with a minimum of one airworthy parachute.
- 1.2.** Parachutes may only be used if they are manufactured for Sport Parachutists or Military Parachutists, by recognised parachute equipment manufacturers or riggers with the necessary qualifications.
- 1.3.** Any modifications to parachute equipment must be carried out by a parachute equipment manufacturer or a rigger with the necessary qualifications. Modifications to equipment used by Student Parachutists, including Tandem equipment, must be approved by the Riggers' Committee before use.
N.B. BPA Form 209 complete with relevant drawings should be submitted for modifications to equipment used by Student Parachutists.
- 1.4.** Changes to manufacturer's specifications on Tandem equipment must be approved by the BPA (via Riggers' Committee and STC).

2. EQUIPMENT USED BY STUDENT PARACHUTISTS

All equipment, other than main parachutes used by Student Parachutists must be acceptable to the BPA (via Riggers' Committee and STC).

2.1. Traditional

- 2.1.1. Main parachutes must be large and docile, in relation to the parachutist's weight and height.
- 2.1.2. The reserve parachute will be mounted integral with the main parachute harness.
- 2.1.3. The static line must be continuous from deployment bag to the point of attachment in the aircraft.
- 2.1.4. Reserve handles must be centrally located.
- 2.1.5. Free fall equipment must be fitted with an operational automatic activation device (AAD), which must be switched on prior to any descent.

2.2 Piggyback

- 2.2.1. The following Wing Loading criteria should be applied to main ram-air canopies:
 - a. First Jump 'Solo' Student Parachutists - not to exceed 0.8 lbs/sq.ft.
 - b. 'Solo' Student Parachutists having completed at least one 'solo' descent - not to exceed 0.85 lbs/sq.ft.

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N.B. Exceptions to the above are permitted where a Canopy's Manufacturer has published advice that a higher wing loading is suitable. The manufacturer's higher limit may then apply.

- 2.2.2. The static line must be continuous from the deployment bag to the point of attachment in the aircraft.
- 2.2.3. The equipment must be fitted with a reserve static line (RSL) and an automatic activation device (AAD), which must be switched on prior to any descent.
- 2.2.4. Category System freefall equipment must be ripcord deployed, up to at least the completion of Category 6.
- 2.2.5. Accelerated Free Fall equipment may be either ripcord or 'throwaway' deployed, and must be able to be activated from either side.

2.3. Tandem

- 2.3.1. Only Tandem equipment acceptable to the BPA (via Riggers' Committee and STC) may be used.
- 2.3.2. Tandem equipment must be fitted with an AAD specifically designed for tandem equipment. If the equipment is not specifically designed to accept an AAD, the initial installation must be carried out by an Advanced Rigger. In the case of a Cypres AAD the Advanced Rigger must be approved by Airtec.
- 2.3.3. The owner of all Tandem equipment must keep a Log Card/record of all descents, which must be available for the six monthly inspections and repack.
- 2.3.4. Parachutists who are not Tandem Instructors (TI), or TI candidates undergoing evaluation, may not jump Tandem equipment.

3. PERSONAL CLOTHING AND EQUIPMENT

All parachutists will be equipped with suitable clothing and equipment. FAI 'B' Certificate (Red) parachutists are responsible for the safe condition of personally owned equipment that they may use, and for ensuring that such equipment is serviced, checked and inspected as appropriate.

3.1. Helmets

- 3.1.1. Student and FAI 'A' Certificate (Red) parachutists must wear a suitably sturdy open faced, hard protective helmet without a peak.

N.B. The 'Raleigh Burner' helmet is not acceptable for use by Student Parachutists.
- 3.1.2. Student Tandem Parachutists must wear a 'French Type' ribbed helmet.
- 3.1.3. FAI 'B' Certificate (Red) holders may wear hard protective helmets acceptable to the CCI/Team Leader.
- 3.1.4. FAI 'C' Certificate (Red) holders may wear headgear acceptable to the CCI/Team Leader.

3.1.5. Helmets are to be worn throughout the entire parachute descent.

- 3.2. Footwear which is suitable for the planned descent.
- 3.3. Gloves (if worn) must allow easy operation of emergency equipment.
- 3.4. All FAI 'A' Certificate (Red) parachutists and above are required to carry a serviceable knife about their person, or on their equipment. The knife should be readily accessible.

4. INSTRUMENTS

- 4.1. Altimeters must be worn by all Student Parachutists (other than Tandem Student Parachutists), jumping Piggyback equipment. Also altimeters must be worn by parachutists carrying out planned delayed openings of 15 seconds or more, (other than Student Parachutists jumping Traditional equipment, on their first successful 15 second delay).
- 4.2. The minimum instrument is a serviceable non-sensitive visual read out altimeter, securely mounted in a suitable position.
- 4.3. Instruments should be positioned so as not to interfere with the use of other parts of the equipment.
- 4.4. Tandem and AFF instructors must be equipped with an audible altimeter when carrying out Tandem and/or AFF instructional descents.
- 4.5. AFF and RAPS Student Parachutists must be equipped with a radio receiver for at least the first three descents.

5. AUTOMATIC ACTIVATION DEVICES

FAI 'A' Certificate (Red) Parachutists must use equipment fitted with an operational AAD, which must be switched on prior to any descent.

N.B. Also see sub-paras 2.1.5. and 2.2.3. above and Section 13 (Displays) para 4.3.

6. CAMERAS

- 6.1. Cameras may only be used by FAI 'C' Certificate (Red) parachutists after inspection and approval of a CCI.
- 6.2. Cameras must be securely fitted. Only in cases of emergency should they be jettisoned.

7. AUXILIARY EQUIPMENT

Equipment such as; GPS, flags, smoke brackets etc, may be actively used by FAI 'C' Certificate (Red) parachutists with permission of the CCI/Team Leader. They must be securely fitted to the parachutist. Only in the case of emergency should they be jettisoned.

N.B. Skysurfing boards may only be used by SSI Grade parachutists or above, or parachutists training for SSI (see Section 2, para 6.6).

8. PARACHUTE PACKING

8.1. Student Equipment.

All Student main parachutes are to be packed under the supervision of a person holding a BPA Packing Certificate for the parachute being packed.

8.2. Main Parachutes

FAI 'B' Certificate (Red) parachutists and above and holders of JM1 Grade qualification are responsible for the packing of the main parachutes they are jumping.

8.3. Reserve Parachutes

8.3.1. All reserve parachutes in 'piggyback' containers, may only be inspected and packed by riggers and persons who have been certified on a BPA Advanced Packing Course, or holders of an appropriate packing certificate.

N.B.(1) The Training Syllabus for Advanced Packing Courses can be found on BPA form 169.

N.B.(2) Advanced Parachute Packers and holders of packing certificates endorsed for 'piggyback' reserve parachutes are subject to an annual currency certification at the time of membership renewal. This certification will be displayed on the BPA membership card.

8.3.2. Reserve Parachute Packers must keep a log of all reserves packed.

8.3.3. Round reserve parachutes in front mounted containers may only be inspected and packed by persons who have been certified by a BPA Advanced Rigger or Advanced Instructor. The certification will include the following:-

- a. Instructions in inspection and packing procedures appropriate to the equipment concerned.
- b. A minimum of four supervised re-packs on the equipment concerned.
- c. Familiarisation with current manufacturers' and BPA requirements concerning the equipment.

8.4. Where manufacturers' requirements conflict with those of the BPA, the BPA requirements will apply.

8.5. Reserve parachutes that have been packed in a foreign country, in a manner acceptable to the parachuting organisation of that country, may be jumped at a BPA Club for up to 6 months from the date of that packing. This is provided that the parachuting organisation of that foreign country allows 6 months validity for a reserve repack; otherwise the foreign country's lesser time will apply.

8.6. Prior to packing reserve parachutes they must be inspected and certified as serviceable on the appropriate Record of Inspection/Inspection Check List. (BPA Forms 112, 112A or 113). A reserve packing/record card must also be maintained.

8.7. The pull force of a reserve ripcord on piggyback equipment may be test pulled by the user after the reserve has been packed. The user should then sign the Inspection Check List to indicate that he/she has made the test pull. In all cases, the packer must test pull the reserve ripcord with a scale and sign for the recorded poundage on the Inspection Check List. The maximum acceptable pull force is 22 lbs.

8.8. Repack Cycles.

Parachutes must be packed at least every 6 calendar months.

8.9. Reserve Sealing Thread

Only Riggers, Advanced Packers and packers with the appropriately endorsed packing certificate may seal reserves and must use a method acceptable to the BPA Riggers Sub-Committee. The rigger/packer should use a method of identification on their seal that is identifiable to him/her. Seal thread must be a thread manufactured to break at no more than 6lbs. The sealing of reserves is optional.

N.B. The acceptable BPA reserve sealing method can be found on BPA form 215.

9. PACKING CERTIFICATES

Approved Packing Certificates (Main parachutes and round reserve parachutes in front mounted containers). Holders of these certificates are certified to assemble and pack specified parachutes and deployment devices into specific containers. These may be issued or endorsed by Parachute Riggers and/or parachute instructors (excluding CSBIs, TBIs or AFFBIs), provided those instructors have their own packing certificates endorsed for the equipment they are signing for. (In the case of round reserve parachutes in front mounted containers, the certificates may only be issued and/or endorsed by Advanced Instructors or Advanced Riggers). (BPA Form 111).

N.B. Holders of this Packing Certificate, endorsed for front mounted reserve parachutes must keep a log of all reserves packed.

10. PACKING RECORDS

10.1. Clubs will maintain a record for each parachute in use as club equipment.

10.2. Student Parachutists will maintain a record for their personal parachutes.

10.3. Packing records will log every packing, re-packing and modification to the parachutes to which they relate.

10.4. Records must incorporate the date of packing and signature of the holder of a relevant packing certificate, at each of the stages of packing that requires inspection.

