



AUSTRALIAN PARACHUTE FEDERATION

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APF TECHNICAL DIRECTIVE No. 01/2008 Sigma Drogue Handles
Issued 26th March 2008
(Originally issued as a Safety Notice)

Issue Date: 26/03/2008

Subject: Sigma Tandem Drogue release handles

Background:

There was a Tandem reserve ride recently in WA when a tandem master was unable to pull the drogue release handles. On inspection it was found that the recess in the handle was tight on the bendix tube and could not be pulled off the tube without some force and then only in a direct line with the bendix tube. (The Sigma manual states that the bendix countersunk hole in the handle should be 3/8" deep)

At another DZ in WA all nine rigs were checked and two were found to have the same problem. A similar experience happened at a DZ in NT a while ago and this problem is now a concern on the Sigma drogue release.

The Director of Rigging, Jo Chitty has checked into the problem and has found a reason for the problem: The inside material of the handle (Golf Ball) is made of a different material to the outside and the inside is swelling or expanding at a greater or different rate than the outside thus trapping the bendix tube as it is pushed home.

APF Recommendation:

All Sigma Tandem drogue release handles are to be checked to ensure that the handles (Golf ball) are free on the bendix tubes and can be pulled in any direction easily without undue pressure.

If any rigs are found to have the problem as stated above then immediately contact the APF Director of Rigging. Contacts on the APF web site.

Compliance:

Immediate

Authority:

Graham (Dixie) Lee
APF Director Safety