



AUSTRALIAN PARACHUTE FEDERATION

Operational Regulations



VERSION 01-2024
STATUS: MANDATORY

Warning***Parachuting and flying in parachuting aircraft can be dangerous.*****IMPORTANT: Version Control**

It is important that members refer to the current version of the Operational Regulations and the subsidiary Regulatory Schedules. These are current at the time of printing by the APF Office.

Current versions of the Operations Regulations, Regulatory Schedules and associated forms can be found on the [APF website](#).

Significant changes made from the previous version are shown in the Amendments section. A vertical line in the outside border area aids in highlighting changed text.

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AMENDMENTS

VERSION	AMENDMENT DETAILS
01 April 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2.3.5 Sporting Licence renewal jumps conducted under the direct supervision of DZSO of a training organisation. 5.1.1 Align with Part 105 MOS 14.5.4 Allow Instructor with DZSO endorsement to supervise B-rels Minor administration amendments

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Contents

AMENDMENTS.....	2
PART 1 – PRELIMINARY.....	9
1.1 Preliminary.....	9
1.1.1 Purpose	9
1.1.2 Authority	9
1.1.3 Application	9
1.2 Permission to temporarily vary (waive conditions of) a regulation and Issue of Technical Directives	9
1.3 Definitions / Interpretation	9
PART 2 – GENERAL REQUIREMENTS	10
2.1 Obligations of Members.....	10
2.1.1 Compliance.....	10
2.1.2 Anti-Doping Policy	10
2.2 Minimum Age Requirements.....	10
2.2.1 Member under 18 Years.....	10
2.2.2 Member under 16 Years.....	10
2.3 Eligibility and Recent Experience	10
2.3.1 Membership Requirement	10
2.3.2 Student or Novice Parachutist.....	10
2.3.3 Certified Parachutist.....	10
2.3.4 Sporting Licence Requirements.....	10
2.3.5 Sporting Licence Currency.....	10
PART 3 – CERTIFICATE CLASSES, DISPLAY RATINGS AND CRESTS	11
3.1 General	11
3.1.1 Certificate Classes, Display Ratings and Crest Levels	11
3.1.2 Log Evidence.....	11
3.1.3 Signature / Verification	11
PART 4 – VISITORS FROM OVERSEAS OR OUTSIDE THE APF SYSTEM.....	11
4.1 Eligibility for Descents.....	11
4.1.1 APF Membership	11
4.1.2 Visitor Assessment	11
4.2 Membership Requirements.....	11
4.2.1 Short Term Membership Requirement	11
4.2.2 Full Membership Requirement	12
4.3 Overseas Qualifications.....	12
4.3.1 Conversion of Instructor Skills.....	12
4.3.2 Conversion of Other Skills and Qualifications	12
4.3.3 Training under Overseas Guidelines.....	12
PART 5 – PILOTS AND AIRCRAFT	12
5.1 Pilots.....	12
5.1.1 Aircraft Pilot Requirements for Parachuting Operations	12
5.1.2 Jump Pilot Requirements for Training Descents	12
5.1.3 Balloon Pilot Requirements.....	13
5.1.4 Recreation, Sports Aviation and Warbird Pilot Requirements	13
5.1.5 Jump Pilot Responsibilities.....	13
5.1.6 Senior Pilot Requirements.....	13
5.1.7 Senior Pilot’s Responsibilities.....	13
5.1.8 Jump Pilot Examiner Requirements	13
5.1.9 Jump Pilot Examiner Responsibilities	13

5.2	Aircraft	13
5.2.1	Aircraft Maintenance	13
5.2.2	Recreation and Sport Aviation Aircraft and Warbirds.....	14
5.2.3	In-Flight Door / Door removed	14
5.2.4	Parachutist Restraints	14
5.2.5	Knife in Aircraft.....	14
5.2.6	Pilot's Emergency Parachute Availability	14
5.2.7	Secondary Seat Stop Fitment for Cessna Aircraft.....	14
5.3	Airspace	14
5.3.1	Reporting Requirements for Parachutes in Controlled Airspace	14
5.3.2	Other Airspace Requirements	14
PART 6 – SAFETY, RESPONSIBILITIES AND SUPERVISION		14
6.1	Operational Supervision and Responsibility	14
6.1.1	Training Organisation Activities	14
6.1.2	Chief Instructor Responsibilities.....	14
6.1.3	Chief Instructor Supervision	14
6.1.4	Operational Approvals	15
6.1.5	Direct Supervision by DZSO	15
6.1.6	DZSO Responsibilities	15
6.1.7	Ratings Holder/Coach Responsibilities.....	15
6.1.8	Ground Control Assistant (GCA) Responsibilities	15
6.1.9	Loadmaster Responsibilities.....	15
6.1.10	Target Assistant (TA) Responsibilities	16
6.1.11	Individual Responsibilities	16
6.1.12	Packer/Rigger Responsibilities	16
6.2	General Safety Requirements	16
6.2.1	Safe Conduct	16
6.2.2	Landing near Hazards	16
6.2.3	Alcohol, Drugs or Fatigue	16
6.3	Operational Safety Requirements	16
6.3.1	Minimum Open Height.....	16
6.3.2	Pilot / Parachutist Precautions	16
6.3.3	Cutaway Descent Approval	17
6.4	Weather Limitations	17
6.4.1	Cloud and Visibility.....	17
6.4.2	Ground Wind Speed	17
PART 7 – EQUIPMENT		17
7.1	General	17
7.1.1	Harness and Parachutes	17
7.1.2	Clothing, etc. Approval	17
7.1.3	Rigid Helmets	17
7.1.4	Personal Flotation Devices (PFDs)	17
7.1.5	Visual Altimeter Requirements	18
7.1.6	AAD and RSL Requirements.....	18
7.1.7	Parachute Airworthiness Certification	18
7.1.8	Damaged or Unsafe Parachute Assembly	18
7.2	Operational Safety Requirements	18
7.2.1	Parachutist's Equipment	18
7.2.2	Parachutist Restraints	18
7.2.3	Dual Controls	18
7.3	Power to Ground Equipment and Issue Service Bulletins	18
PART 8 – WEATHER LIMITATIONS AND DROP ZONE REQUIREMENTS		19

PART 9 – REQUIREMENTS FOR SPECIFIC TYPES OF DESCENTS	19
9.1 Freefall Relative Work (RW) General	19
9.1.1 Supervision	19
9.1.2 RW Minimum Experience	19
9.1.3 Relative Descents with More than 10 Parachutists.....	19
9.1.4 Separation Height.....	19
9.2 Freely Descents	19
9.2.1 Freely Training Prerequisites.....	19
9.2.2 Freely Training Table Progression	19
9.2.3 Audible Altimeter	19
9.3 Canopy Relative Work (CRW) Descents.....	20
9.3.1 CRW Training Prerequisites.....	20
9.3.2 CRW Training Table Progression	20
9.3.3 Minimum Working Height.....	20
9.3.4 CRW Equipment	20
9.4 Wingsuit Descents	20
9.4.1 Wingsuit Training Prerequisites	20
9.4.2 Wingsuit Training Table Progression.....	20
9.4.3 Audible Altimeter	20
9.4.4 Wingsuit Descent Conditions	20
9.5 Night Descents.....	21
9.5.1 Night Training Prerequisites	21
9.5.2 Night Training Progression	21
9.5.3 Parachutist Equipment.....	21
9.5.4 Night Descents Conditions	21
9.5.5 Pyrotechnic Flares	21
9.5.6 Night Tandem Descents	21
9.6 Water Descents	21
9.6.1 Water Descents Conditions.....	21
9.7 Camera Descents	21
9.7.1 Approval	21
9.7.2 Parachutist Requirements	21
9.8 High Altitude Descents.....	22
9.8.1 Descents above FL 150 (15,000ft AMSL) and below FL 180 (18,000 AMSL).....	22
9.8.2 Descents above FL 180 (18,000ft AMSL) and below FL 250 (25,000 AMSL).....	22
9.9 Tracking and Angles Descents.....	22
9.9.1 Tracking and Angles Prerequisites	22
9.9.2 Tracking and Angles Requirements.....	22
9.9.3 Leading Tracking and Angles Descent	22
9.10 High Performance Landings.....	23
PART 10 – PARACHUTING DISPLAYS.....	23
10.1 Parachuting Displays.....	23
10.1.1 Parachuting Display Conduct.....	23
10.1.2 Display Organiser Responsibilities.....	23
10.1.3 Distance between Target and Spectators	23
10.1.4 Minimum Height over Spectators	23
10.1.5 Ground Wind Speed	23
10.1.6 Exit Height	23
10.1.7 Aircraft Operations.....	24
10.1.8 Canopy Relative Work Requirements	24
10.1.9 Flag Requirements.....	24
10.1.10 Display Descents by Student Parachutists.....	24
10.2 Display Rating Assessments	24

PART 11 – TRAINING	24
11.1 General requirements ALL Training Descents	24
11.1.1 Training Syllabus.....	24
11.1.2 Student Parachutist Licence	24
11.1.3 Deemed Training Descents.....	24
11.1.4 CI Supervision	24
11.1.5 DZSO Authority.....	25
11.1.6 Appropriate Rating / Endorsement	25
11.1.7 Log Requirements	25
11.1.8 First Descent Requirements	25
11.1.9 Orientation Flights.....	25
11.1.10 Student Equipment	25
11.1.11 Pre-boarding Briefing	25
11.1.12 Canopy Control Assistance.....	25
11.2 Tandem Descents	25
11.2.1 Direct Supervision	25
11.2.2 Qualifications.....	25
11.2.3 Tandem Endorsement Applicants	25
11.2.4 Tandem Passenger Requirement	25
11.2.5 AAD Requirements	25
11.2.6 RSL Requirements	26
11.2.7 Equipment Check	26
11.2.8 Aircraft Restraints Tandem Parachutists.....	26
11.2.9 Minimum Open Height.....	26
11.2.10 RW involving Tandem Master	26
11.2.11 Canopy Relative Work	26
11.2.12 Handcam	26
11.2.13 Class E and F DZs	26
11.3 AFF, TAF and SFF Descents	26
11.3.1 Direct Supervision AFF and TAF Descents	26
11.3.2 Direct Supervision SFF Descents	26
11.3.3 Instructor Qualifications TAF Descent.....	26
11.3.4 Student Progression	26
11.3.5 SFF Training Table.....	27
11.3.6 Aircraft Direct Supervision	27
11.3.7 Instructor to Wear Parachute	27
11.3.8 Pre-boarding Equipment Check.....	27
11.3.9 Flatfly RW Descent	27
11.3.10 Certificate Class A Training.....	27
11.4 Student, Novice Descents and Flatfly RW Training	27
11.4.1 Direct Supervision Requirements.....	27
11.4.2 Certificate 'Class B Training Table' (CBTT).....	27
11.4.3 RW Descents Not Part of CBTT.....	27
11.4.4 RW Descents After Stage 5.....	27
PART 12 – RECORDS: LOGS, INCIDENT NOTIFICATION/REPORTS AND PACKING RECORDS 28	
12.1 Retention and Inspection of Logs and Records	28
12.2 Parachutist’s Log	28
12.2.1 Parachutists Must Keep a Log	28
12.2.2 Log Details	28
12.3 Master Log	28
12.3.1 Group member’s Log.....	28
12.3.2 Operations Conducted Other than by Group member	28
12.3.3 Master Log Contents	28
12.4 Parachute Maintenance Log	28

12.4.1	Parachute Packing and Rigging Records.....	28
12.4.2	Parachute Maintenance Log Details.....	29
12.5	Parachute Packing Record	29
12.5.1	Packing Cards	29
12.5.2	Reserve/Emergency Parachute and Tandem Passenger Harness Airworthiness Requirements	29
12.5.3	AAD Service or Replacement.....	29
12.5.4	Student and Tandem Equipment Log.....	29
12.6	Incident Notification and Equipment Defect / Rigging Reporting	30
PART 13 – AUTHORITIES / POWERS.....		30
PART 14 – INSTRUCTOR RATINGS, ENDORSEMENTS AND COACH APPROVALS		30
14.1	General requirements	30
14.1.1	Fit and Proper Person.....	30
14.1.2	Acting as Instructor or Coach	30
14.2	Instructor Ratings and Endorsements	30
14.2.1	Instructor Ratings	30
14.2.2	Endorsements	30
14.2.3	STM Waiver	30
14.3	Coach Approvals	30
14.3.1	Coach Approval Disciplines	30
14.4	Chief Instructor Approval	31
14.4.1	CI Approval	31
14.4.2	Existing CI Approval.....	31
14.4.3	Termination of Approval	31
14.5	Instructor and Coach Privileges	31
14.5.1	Privileges of an Instructor with AFF, SFF or Tandem Endorsement	31
14.5.2	Privileges of an Instructor with an AFF Endorsement.....	31
14.5.3	Privileges of an Instructor with an SFF Endorsement.....	31
14.5.4	Privileges of an Instructor with a DZSO Endorsement	31
14.5.5	Privileges of an Instructor with a Course Trainer Endorsement	32
14.5.6	Privileges of a Senior Instructor	32
14.5.7	Privileges of an Instructor with Packer B.....	32
14.5.8	Privileges of an Instructor with Packer A.....	32
14.5.9	Coach Privileges.....	32
14.6	Validity of Ratings and Endorsements.....	32
14.7	Instructor Examiner	32
14.7.1	Instructor Examiner Approval	32
14.7.2	Instructor Examiner Responsibilities.....	32
14.8	Suspension and Cancellation of Ratings and Endorsements.....	32
14.8.1	Suspension and Cancellation.....	32
14.8.2	Chief Instructor Cancellation.....	32
PART 15 – PARACHUTE PACKING AND RIGGING		32
15.1	Packer and Rigger Ratings – General.....	32
15.1.1	Fit and Proper Person.....	32
15.1.2	Packer and Rigger Ratings	32
15.2	Packer and Rigger Privileges.....	33
15.2.1	Packer B.....	33
15.2.2	Packer A.....	33
15.2.3	Rigger.....	33
15.2.4	Rigger Examiner.....	33
15.3	Packing Requirements.....	33

15.3.1	CI Authorisation.....	33
15.3.2	Packing Recommendations	33
15.3.3	Documentation	33
15.3.4	Packing for a Live Drop.....	33
15.3.5	Emergency and Reserve Parachutes	34
15.3.6	Trainee Packer.....	34
15.4	Rigging Requirements	34
15.4.1	Manufacturers' Modifications and Equipment Bulletins	34
15.4.2	Compliance Date Enforcement	34
15.5	Suspension of Packer and Rigger Ratings	34
15.5.1	Suspension	34

PART 1 – PRELIMINARY

1.1 Preliminary

1.1.1 Purpose

These Operational Regulations and the subsidiary Regulatory Schedules are the Australian Parachute Federation's controlling reference documents for governing the safe and efficient conduct of parachuting activities.

- (a) The Operational Regulations (OR) are approved by CASA as APF's primary regulatory document. Their main purpose is to describe principal safety and training requirements and the duties and responsibilities of all those involved in parachuting. They outline the classification and rating frameworks and set out the conditions and requirements for parachuting operations.

Whilst the OR also include non-safety related administrative policy and procedures relating to parachuting and overseas visitors, matters in the OR may be set out in more detail in the subsidiary Regulatory Schedules.

- (b) The Regulatory Schedules (RS) expand on some of the regulatory areas in the OR and include procedural regulations. The RS document contains the following Schedules:
- (i) RS 50: Glossary of Terms and Definitions;
 - (ii) RS 51: CASA Instruments;
 - (iii) RS 52: Parachutist Certification, Crests and Display Ratings;
 - (iv) RE 53: Instructor, Packer, Rigger Ratings and Endorsements, Coaches and Assessment;
 - (v) RS 54: Chief Instructor Application and Approval;
 - (vi) RS 55: Incident/Defect Notification, Investigation and Reporting;
 - (vii) RS 56: Jump Pilot Authorisation and Examiner;
 - (viii) RS 57: Organisational Structure and Accountabilities;
 - (ix) RS 58: Drop Zones, Group member Regulations and Applications; and
 - (x) RS 60: Cloud Jumping.
- (c) Where an inconsistency arises between the OR and a RS, the OR will prevail.

1.1.2 Authority

These regulations are made pursuant to the APF Constitution and are binding on all members of the APF.

1.1.3 Application

These regulations apply to parachuting activities conducted or undertaken under the auspices of the APF.

These regulations take effect from 01 April 2024 and repeal any previously issued Operational Regulations.

1.2 Permission to temporarily vary (waive conditions of) a regulation and Issue of Technical Directives

- (a) A member may apply in writing for permission to temporarily vary a regulation.
- (b) An application for permission must set out the grounds upon which the permission is sought and the operations in respect of which the permission is requested.
- (c) The NAO, NRO and STM may give permission to temporarily vary a regulation affecting their respective areas of operations with prior notification to the Technical and Safety Committee.
- (d) Permission must be in writing and copies must be given to the member concerned and the APF Office.
- (e) The NAO and NRO, acting only within their respective technical area, and the STM and the APF Technical & Safety Committee have the power to issue Technical Directives.
- (f) A written application for a waiver must be made in advance to comply with CASA notification requirements

1.3 Definitions / Interpretation

Words not defined in these Regulations have the meaning ascribed to them in the APF Constitution or Dictionary of Definitions on the [APF website](#) (reproduced in Regulatory Schedule 50) unless a contrary meaning appears from the context.

In interpreting a provision of APF rules and regulations, the interpretation that would best achieve the purpose or object of the regulations (whether or not that purpose or object is expressly stated in the regulations) is to be preferred to each other interpretation.

PART 2 – GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

2.1 Obligations of Members

2.1.1 Compliance

- (a) In accordance with OR 6.1.11, members are bound by:
 - (i) these Operational Regulations and all subsidiary Regulatory Schedules;
 - (ii) the APF Code of Ethics;
 - (iii) mandatory standards published as equipment standards, service bulletins and rigging advisory standards, and technical directives; and
 - (iv) all other policies and procedures that may be determined from time to time by the APF.
- (b) Members must ensure their membership and any required ratings or approvals held are valid when participating in parachuting activities.
- (c) With the exception of membership requirements for visitors described in OR 4.2, an APF parachutist certificate, display rating or crest is not valid unless the holder is also the holder of full APF membership and a current APF/FAI Sporting Licence.
- (d) An APF instructor rating or coach approval is not valid unless the holder or approved person is also the holder of full APF membership and a current APF/FAI Sporting Licence.
- (e) An APF packer or rigger rating is not valid unless the holder is also the holder of full APF membership.

2.1.2 Anti-Doping Policy

A member must:

- (a) not commit a doping offence as defined in the APF Anti-Doping Policy; and
- (b) permit and assist in providing a sample for drug testing when required to do so by Australian Sports Anti-Doping Authority (ASADA), APF or FAI or by a person authorised by the Board of the APF requiring such a sample.

2.2 Minimum Age Requirements

2.2.1 Member under 18 Years

A member under the age of 18 years must not make a descent, except with the written permission of that member's parent or legal guardian.

2.2.2 Member under 16 Years

A member under the age of 16 years must not make a descent, except as a student parachutist on a tandem descent and with the written permission of the STM.

2.3 Eligibility and Recent Experience

2.3.1 Membership Requirement

- (a) Notwithstanding OR 5.1.5, all persons on board an aircraft except flight crew, must hold current membership of the APF.
- (b) Except visitors assessed as eligible under Part 4 and notwithstanding OR 2.3.5, only a member who holds a valid APF Student Parachutist Licence or a valid APF/FAI Sporting Licence is eligible to make a descent.

2.3.2 Student or Novice Parachutist

A student or novice parachutist who has not made a descent within the period of 90 days immediately preceding the intended training descent, must be assessed by the DZSO prior to undertaking a descent.

2.3.3 Certified Parachutist

The holder of an APF parachutist certificate who has not made a descent within the immediately preceding six months must not make a descent except under the direct supervision of an Instructor with a DZSO endorsement until assessed as proficient to exercise the privileges of the certificate held.

2.3.4 Sporting Licence Requirements

The issue or renewal of a Sporting Licence must not be approved unless the certificate holder has made at least six stable freefalls in the preceding 12 months.

2.3.5 Sporting Licence Currency

A member who does not meet the currency requirements of OR 2.3.4 for the issue of a Sporting Licence may make a descent subject to the following:

- (a) the member must receive approval for and make the descent under the direct supervision of a DZSO of a Training Organisation until the renewal requirements are met.

PART 3 – CERTIFICATE CLASSES, DISPLAY RATINGS AND CRESTS

3.1 General

3.1.1 Certificate Classes, Display Ratings and Crest Levels

The APF issues certificates, ratings and crests, which must be achieved, authorised and held in accordance with the requirements of RS 52. The certificate classes, display ratings and crest levels are:

- (a) certificate classes A, B, C, D, E and F, with class F being the highest.
- (b) crests for:
 - (i) Australian Star Crest;
 - (ii) Night Star Crest;
 - (iii) Wingsuit Crest;
 - (iv) Freely Crests; and
 - (v) Canopy Relative Work.
- (c) Display ratings for:
 - (i) Display General;
 - (ii) Display Pro;
 - (iii) Display Open; and
 - (iv) Display Organiser.

3.1.2 Log Evidence

Only descents logged as required by OR 12.2 and RS 52 may be accepted as evidence for the issue of certificate classes, display ratings and crests.

3.1.3 Signature / Verification

Provided that the verifier has confirmed that the applicant fully and completely meets the requirements of the certificate class, display rating or crest being applied for, all applications must be verified and countersigned by:

- (a) the Chief Instructor (CI); or
- (b) in the CI's absence: the NAO, NRO, STO or STM; or
- (c) STO/STM where required.

PART 4 – VISITORS FROM OVERSEAS OR OUTSIDE THE APF SYSTEM

4.1 Eligibility for Descents

4.1.1 APF Membership

A visitor who holds a valid parachuting licence may make descents only after becoming at least a short-term member of the APF.

Note: Short-term membership without FAI-affiliation does not satisfy FAI and some APF requirements for members wishing to participate in national and international competitions or record attempts.

4.1.2 Visitor Assessment

- (a) **Experienced Parachutists:** Before a visitor who holds a valid parachutist licence makes a descent, a CI, or a DZSO authorised by the CI, STO or STM, must:
 - (i) assess the visitor's experience and competence;
 - (ii) write in the visitor's log the level of privileges that the visitor may exercise; and
 - (iii) write in the visitor's log the equivalent experience level for a certificate class up to and including a Class E and Crests;
- (b) **Student Parachutists:** Before a visiting student parachutist makes a training descent, a CI, or in the absence of the CI, an instructor with a DZSO endorsement authorised by the CI, must:
 - (i) assess the visitor's experience and level of proficiency; and
 - (ii) ensure the visitor takes up training at the appropriate stage of a Training Table as defined in the Training Operations Manual (TOM).
- (c) Visitors will also be assessed regarding any restrictions or cancellations that may be in place from another parachuting organisation.

4.2 Membership Requirements

4.2.1 Short Term Membership Requirement

- (a) A visitor who holds a valid parachutist licence, at least a short-term membership of the APF, and who has received the appropriate written assessment in their log in accordance with OR 4.1.2 may apply for:
 - (i) certificate classes A to E;

- (ii) crests; and/or
- (iii) Display General rating.
- (b) A visitor must hold the applicable certificate class required for the Display General rating and/or Crest being applied for.

4.2.2 Full Membership Requirement

- (a) A visitor must take out full membership of the APF before applying for:
 - (i) any rating or endorsement;
 - (ii) Display Organiser rating;
 - (iii) Certificate Class F; or
 - (iv) Display Pro or Display Open rating.
- (b) The visitor must hold the certificate class required for the particular display rating being applied for.

4.3 Overseas Qualifications

4.3.1 Conversion of Instructor Skills

- (a) A person who is qualified as an instructor outside the APF system may apply for conversion of their qualifications to an Instructor rating with AFF, SFF or Tandem endorsement(s) through an assessment process approved by the STM.
- (b) A person who wishes to apply for an instructor rating must complete all the relevant requirements as required by Part 14 of these regulations and in accordance with RS 53.

4.3.2 Conversion of Other Skills and Qualifications

- (a) An APF member who gained experience and/or obtained qualifications outside the APF system, may have the experience recognized and/or apply for conversion of the qualifications to APF equivalencies (Certificate Class up to E, crests or Display general). A CI, or a DZSO authorised by the CI, STO or STM, must:
 - (i) assess the member's experience and competence;
 - (ii) record in the member's log the APF equivalency this meets;
 - (iii) verify the members application and issuance of the APF equivalency.

4.3.3 Training under Overseas Guidelines

- (a) Groups of overseas parachutists, including clubs and teams, may conduct training with a group member under the visitors' national guidelines only where:
 - (i) the group of overseas parachutists has applied to the STM for permission to train under the visitors' national guidelines; and
 - (ii) the STM has issued a specific permission in writing outlining the conditions and limitations with which the group of overseas parachutists and the group member must comply.
- (b) A copy of the permission issued by the STM must be inserted into the TOM and a copy supplied to the APF Office.

PART 5 – PILOTS AND AIRCRAFT

5.1 Pilots

Jump Pilot Authorisations (JPA), Jump Pilot Examiner approvals and Senior Pilot nominations are issued, held and revalidated in accordance with RS 56 and these regulations.

5.1.1 Aircraft Pilot Requirements for Parachuting Operations

An aircraft Pilot (other than for a balloon, recreation, sports aviation or warbird) engaged in the dropping of parachutists must hold:

- (a) a valid commercial pilot licence (CPL); or
- (b) a valid private pilot licence (PPL) and have 200 hours total aeronautical experience, of which at 100 hours must be as pilot in command; and must have:
 - (c) 10 hours experience on the particular aircraft type or an aircraft type of similar performance, weight and operational complexity.

5.1.2 Jump Pilot Requirements for Training Descents

In addition to 5.1.1, all pilots engaged in the dropping of parachutists for parachute training descents must:

- (a) comply with the relevant CASA Instruments, issued from time to time (see RS 51);
- (b) hold a JPA; and
- (c) comply with the APF Jump Pilot Manual.

5.1.3 Balloon Pilot Requirements

Where a balloon is used for parachuting, the balloon pilot must hold at least a valid commercial pilot (balloon) licence or a valid private pilot (balloon) licence, and have a minimum 75 hours aeronautical experience as pilot in command of balloons.

5.1.4 Recreation, Sports Aviation and Warbird Pilot Requirements

Where a recreation or sports aviation aircraft or warbird is used for parachuting other than for training operations, the pilot must:

- (a) hold a valid licence or certificate relevant to the aircraft operated and an endorsement to carry passengers; and
- (b) 200 hours total aeronautical experience, of which at 100 hours must be as pilot in command.

5.1.5 Jump Pilot Responsibilities

All pilots flying at APF training operations must:

- (a) carry a valid pilot licence and current medical when flying;
- (b) be a current APF member;
- (c) comply with the operating requirements and limitations contained in the aircraft flight manual;
- (d) comply with Cloud Jump Procedures Manual (CJPM) when applicable;
- (e) comply with all pre-jump briefings;
- (f) provide aircraft operational advice to the DZSO;
- (g) ensure that all parachutists are restrained in accordance with ORs 5.2.4, 7.2.2 and 11.2.8; and
- (h) ensure they are assessed as competent in accordance with OR 5.1.7 (e) by their Senior Pilot, a JPE or another person approved by the NAO:
 - (i) in flight for normal parachuting operations;
 - (ii) for emergency procedures; and
 the assessment is recorded in the Jump Pilot's log.

5.1.6 Senior Pilot Requirements

The Senior Pilot must be:

- (a) the holder of a valid JPA;
- (b) nominated in writing by the CI of a Training Organisation; and
- (c) a person acceptable to the NAO.

5.1.7 Senior Pilot's Responsibilities

The Senior Pilot must:

- (a) be responsible for oversight of all aircraft related aspects of the operation;
- (b) ensure aircraft management systems are in place including but not limited to a system for calculation of MTOW for each load;
- (c) provide aircraft operational advice to pilots and the CI;
- (d) provide supervision to JPA holders; and
- (e) ensure the assessment in OR 5.1.5 (h) is conducted at least:
 - (i) 12-monthly for pilots flying aircraft that are 10-places or less, or
 - (ii) 6-monthly for pilots flying aircraft that are 11-place or more or any twin-engine aircraft; and
 Records must be kept of the assessment.

5.1.8 Jump Pilot Examiner Requirements

Before being approved as a Jump Pilot Examiner, the applicant must:

- (a) meet the requirements of RS 56;
- (b) hold of a valid JPA; and
- (c) be approved to act as a Jump Pilot Examiner by the NAO.

5.1.9 Jump Pilot Examiner Responsibilities

The Jump Pilot Examiner must:

- (a) conduct the training and assessment of jump pilots in accordance with the APF Jump Pilot Manual; and
- (b) authorise the issue of JPA's.

5.2 Aircraft

5.2.1 Aircraft Maintenance

Jump aircraft involved in parachute training student operations must be maintained in accordance with the requirements of the Part 105 Manual of Standards, relevant CASA Instruments issued from time to time and included in RS 51.

5.2.2 Recreation and Sport Aviation Aircraft and Warbirds

Notwithstanding OR 5.1.4, Recreation and Sports Aviation Aircraft and warbirds must not be used for parachute training descents.

5.2.3 In-Flight Door / Door removed

A supplement relating to operations with an external opening door or door removed must be in the flight manual for the aircraft.

5.2.4 Parachutist Restraints

An aircraft used for parachute operations (other than a balloon) must be:

- (a) fitted with sufficient single point restraints manufactured to a standard approved by CASA and the APF and labelled accordingly and accessible to all parachutists aboard the aircraft, or
- (b) fitted with sufficient aircraft seats and seatbelts; and
- (c) used in accordance with ORs 7.2.2 and 11.2.8.

5.2.5 Knife in Aircraft

A knife, capable of cutting parachute harness webbing, must be readily available and appropriately stored in the aircraft.

5.2.6 Pilot's Emergency Parachute Availability

A parachute that complies with APF Equipment Standards and training in the proper use of that parachute must be made available to pilots of aircraft used in making descents.

5.2.7 Secondary Seat Stop Fitment for Cessna Aircraft

The secondary seat stop, required by Cessna service bulletin SEB 07-5, or its approved equivalent, must be fitted on the pilot's seat of the indicated models.

5.3 Airspace

5.3.1 Reporting Requirements for Parachutes in Controlled Airspace

The Pilot in command or as otherwise stipulated in a letter of agreement must report to ATC that all parachutists are:

- (a) clear of controlled airspace as soon as practicable; or
- (b) below an altitude as specified by:
 - (i) a Letter of Agreement with Airservices Australia; or
 - (ii) ATC for the individual sortie.

5.3.2 Other Airspace Requirements

Notwithstanding OR 5.3.1, airspace requirements for parachute operations are contained in the Part 105 Manual of Standards, relevant CASA Instruments issued from time to time and included in RS 51.

PART 6 – SAFETY, RESPONSIBILITIES AND SUPERVISION

6.1 Operational Supervision and Responsibility

6.1.1 Training Organisation Activities

The approved CI of a Training Organisation is the person held accountable by the APF for that organisation's compliance with all rules and regulations of the APF.

6.1.2 Chief Instructor Responsibilities

The approved CI of a Training Organisation is responsible for ensuring that:

- (a) an adequate and appropriate Safety Management System is documented and implemented;
- (b) all parachutists involved in parachuting activities conduct themselves in accordance with the organisation's Safety Management System and comply with all rules and regulations of the APF; and
- (c) all rating holders and persons approved to those positions as defined in OR 6.1.4:
 - (i) operate within that organisation's Safety Management System and comply with all rules and regulations of the APF; and
 - (ii) ensure students, novice parachutists and certified parachutists under their supervision conduct themselves in accordance with that organisation's Safety Management System and comply with all rules and regulations of the APF.

6.1.3 Chief Instructor Supervision

The CI must exercise direct supervision of each operation at least one third of operational time, calculated in any 90 days, unless any additional direct supervision requirements as stated in writing by the APF, STO or STM have been imposed.

6.1.4 Operational Appointments

- (a) **The CI** is responsible for ensuring the following appointments are made including:
 - (i) DZSO; and
 - (ii) Senior Pilot.
- (b) **The DZSO** is responsible for ensuring the following appointments are made, including:
 - (i) Loadmaster;
 - (ii) Ground Control Assistant; and
 - (iii) Target Assistant (as required).

6.1.5 Direct Supervision by DZSO

All descents must be made with the approval of, and under the direct supervision of a DZSO, in accordance with the following requirements:

- (a) **Student or Novice Training Descents** (other than tandem descents): Notwithstanding ORs 14.5.4 a) and b), the DZSO must be the holder of an instructor rating with a DZSO endorsement and must have been appointed by the CI.
- (b) **Tandem Training Descents**: Notwithstanding OR 11.2.1, and OR 14.5.4(a) and (c), the DZSO must be the holder of an instructor rating with a DZSO endorsement and must have been appointed by the CI.
- (c) **Descents other than Training Descents** (as defined in OR 11.1.3): The DZSO must be:
 - (i) the holder of at least a Certificate Class D; and
 - (ii) at least 18 years of age.
- (d) **Each parachutist must ensure** that a DZSO has been appointed in accordance with these regulations prior to the commencement of operations.

6.1.6 DZSO Responsibilities

- (a) The DZSO must have a reasonable system in place for ensuring that:
 - (i) all parachuting operations are conducted in accordance with APF regulations; and
 - (ii) operations are conducted in accordance with the organisation's Safety Management System.
- (b) The DZSO must ensure measures are implemented so that:
 - (i) all persons involved in parachuting operations are current APF members as required by regulations;
 - (ii) appointments are made in accordance with OR 6.1.4 (b);
 - (iii) all parachutists are qualified for the descent being undertaken;
 - (iv) equipment being used complies with Part Seven of these regulations;
 - (v) the aircraft is properly prepared for parachuting operations; and
 - (vi) all parachutists are accounted for after their descents.

6.1.7 Ratings Holder/Coach Responsibilities

Members who hold any APF rating,, and approved coaches, are responsible for:

- (a) complying with all regulations when exercising the privileges of their rating, endorsement or approval;
- (b) maintaining their rating, endorsement or approval in accordance with all regulations;
- (c) extending a duty of care to any parachutists under their direct supervision; and
- (d) assisting the DZSO in meeting the responsibilities of their approval in accordance with OR 6.1.6.

6.1.8 Ground Control Assistant (GCA) Responsibilities

- (a) The GCA is responsible for communicating the advisability of exiting the aircraft to the parachutists and pilot.
- (b) The GCA must be:
 - (i) appointed for every load;
 - (ii) a person trained and assessed in accordance with the TOM;
 - (iii) a member of the APF;
 - (iv) at least 18 years of age.
- (c) Unless OR 6.1.8 (d) applies, the GCA must be appointed by the DZSO.
- (d) For display descents, the GCA must be appointed by the Display Organiser.

6.1.9 Loadmaster Responsibilities

The Loadmaster must be nominated by the DZSO for every load and is responsible for:

- (a) conducting a pre-jump briefing before any parachute descents are made, which covers all relevant aspects of the descent, and which includes all persons on board the aircraft including pilot and parachutists;
- (b) ensuring the airspace and DZ below is clear of conflicting air traffic and any necessary drop clearances have been obtained; and
- (c) confirming the integrity of the exit point.

6.1.10 Target Assistant (TA) Responsibilities

The TA is responsible for providing canopy control assistance to a student parachutist and must:

- (a) hold a valid instructor rating; or
- (b) be a full member of the APF; and must
 - (i) have been trained and assessed in accordance with the TOM; and
 - (ii) hold a CI's authorisation to act as TA.

6.1.11 Individual Responsibilities

A parachutist must:

- (a) not contravene any provision of these regulations;
- (b) not refuse or neglect to comply or be reckless as to whether or not they comply with these regulations or the Constitution or any other regulations;
- (c) not act in a manner dangerous to themselves or others during the course of parachuting activities;
- (d) ensure their equipment complies with Part Seven of these regulations;
- (e) ensure their equipment is checked by another APF member ("buddy check") before emplaning;
- (f) comply with all pre-jump briefings;
- (g) be assured of their position in relation to the target prior to exit; and
- (h) report all incidents to the DZSO.

6.1.12 Packer/Rigger Responsibilities

Members who hold an APF packer or rigger rating are responsible for:

- (a) complying with all regulations when exercising the privileges of their ratings;
- (b) maintaining their ratings in accordance with all regulations; and
- (c) ensuring any equipment deficiencies or defects noticed within the course of enacting their duties as Packer/Rigger are dealt with according to the regulations.

6.2 General Safety Requirements

6.2.1 Safe Conduct

Members must act in a manner which is safe and not dangerous to themselves or others in the course of parachuting activities.

6.2.2 Landing near Hazards

A parachutist must not plan to land closer to any landing hazard than the distance specified in RS 58, 10.2.

6.2.3 Alcohol, Drugs or Fatigue

- (a) Alcohol must not be consumed in operational areas during operations.
- (b) Parachuting activities must not be conducted by any individual while deemed to be impaired by drugs, alcohol or fatigue.
- (c) An individual is deemed to be impaired by alcohol or drugs if there is any presence of alcohol or drugs in their system, or they act in a manner that raises reasonable suspicion of alcohol or drug use as assessed by the DZSO or STO.

6.3 Operational Safety Requirements

6.3.1 Minimum Open Height

- (a) For student parachutists, the main parachute must be open by 2,500 feet AGL.
- (b) For all other descents except tandem and Display Open descents, the main parachute must be open by 2,000 feet AGL.

Note: For Display Open descents, see OR 10.1.6. For Tandem descents minimum open height, see OR 11.2.9.

6.3.2 Pilot / Parachutist Precautions

The pilot and each parachutist on board the aircraft during operations must take all reasonable precautions to ensure that:

- (a) There is no risk of any part of the aircraft becoming fouled by the parachutist or their equipment;
- (b) No adverse stress will be imposed on the aircraft structure, including the undercarriage, wing strut or any device designed to aid the parachutist to exit the aircraft; and
- (c) No loose objects are carried in the aircraft nor during any part of the descent, which would constitute a danger to property or persons on the ground if dropped.

6.3.3 Cutaway Descent Approval

Except in an emergency, a Cutaway descent must not be made unless:

- (a) the CI has approved:
 - (i) the making of the descent; and
 - (ii) the equipment used for the descent; and
- (b) a main parachute and two Emergency or Reserve parachutes are worn for the descent.

6.4 Weather Limitations

6.4.1 Cloud and Visibility

Except where descents are made in accordance with the authorised written approval of the APF, all descents must be made in meteorological conditions that:

- (a) permit the target to be clearly visible throughout the descent; and
- (b) do not require the parachutist to enter cloud.

6.4.2 Ground Wind Speed

- (a) For all descents, except night descents and display descents, the wind speed must not exceed the following limits or any lower limit determined by the DZSO:

Student parachutists	15 knots
Holders of a Certificate Class A or B	20 knots
Holders of at least a Certificate Class C and above	25 knots

- (b) Wind speed should be measured at a height of 30 feet (nine metres) above the DZ, but where measured at eye level, the wind speed must be recorded as the actual reading plus 25 per cent.
- (c) Wind speed should remain below the specified limits for at least 10 minutes before commencing or resuming operations.

Note: Wind speeds for night descents can be found at OR 9.5.4 (c) and wind speeds for display descents can be found at OR 10.1.5.

PART 7 – EQUIPMENT

7.1 General

Note: See also ORs 9.7.1, 9.7.2 and 11.1.10.

7.1.1 Harness and Parachutes

- (a) A parachutist must wear a harness and container system that complies with APF Equipment Standards and the TOM and which has at least two ram-air parachutes, one of which must be a reserve parachute.
- (b) The main parachute must be verified as compatible with the rest of the parachute system by a Packer A or Rigger (notwithstanding OR 9.3.4).
- (c) The DZSO is responsible to ensure that:
 - (i) verification of compatibility is confirmed,
 - (ii) sport jumper equipment is inspected by an Instructor or Packer A for serviceability and compatibility every 12 months; and
 - (iii) records of inspections kept.
- (d) An STO may approve equipment with a round parachute(s) for use, excluding displays, by the holder of a Certificate Class D or above, subject to conditions.

7.1.2 Clothing, etc. Approval

- (a) Clothing, footwear, jewellery, helmets or any object worn or carried for a descent, or the absence of any of these items, must be approved by the DZSO in accordance with ORs 6.3.2 and 7.2.1.
- (b) A student parachutist must wear suitable closed footwear.

7.1.3 Rigid Helmets

- (a) With the exception of tandem students, parachutists who do not hold a Certificate Class C or higher must wear a hard shell helmet on all descents.
- (b) Parachutists who hold a Certificate Class C or higher may, at the discretion of the DZSO, be allowed to make a descent without a helmet.

7.1.4 Personal Flotation Devices (PFDs)

A personal flotation device that complies with APF Equipment Standards must be worn by each and every parachutist in the following situations:

- (a) All parachutists if the target is within 300 metres of a water hazard; and
- (b) A student parachutist if the target is within 500 meters of a water hazard.

7.1.5 Visual Altimeter Requirements

- (a) A functioning visual altimeter approved by the manufacturer for the purpose of skydiving, and set to indicate height above the DZ must be:
 - (i) worn on all descents; and
 - (ii) securely mounted so that it can be read without difficulty throughout the descent.
- (b) The CI may authorise in writing an exception to this regulation for specified descents where the delay does not exceed 10 seconds.

7.1.6 AAD and RSL Requirements

- (a) All freefall descents made by a parachutist who hold up to and including a Certificate Class C must be made with equipment fitted with an operational AAD.
- (b) All freefall descents made by parachutists who hold a Certificate Class D must be made with equipment fitted with either:
 - (i) A functional RSL; or
 - (ii) An operational AAD.
- (c) The DZSO may authorise in writing an exception to this regulation for specified descents.

7.1.7 Parachute Airworthiness Certification

A reserve or emergency parachute assembly must not be worn unless it has been certified as airworthy in accordance with OR 12.5.2 and:

- (a) is accompanied by an accessible packing card in accordance with OR 12.5.1; and
- (b) where the equipment is used primarily by a student parachutist Training Organisation, the details of the certification are recorded in the Training Organisation's parachute packing log.

7.1.8 Damaged or Unsafe Parachute Assembly

A parachute assembly which has been damaged or found to be unsafe must not be used for descent unless it has been repaired and or declared safe by a Rigger or Packer A.

7.2 Operational Safety Requirements

7.2.1 Parachutist's Equipment

A parachutist must not wear any equipment or clothing or carry any item which is likely to interfere with the deployment or operation of the parachutes.

7.2.2 Parachutist Restraints

A parachutist must not be carried in an aircraft during parachuting operations unless the parachutist:

- (a) has been instructed in the use of the parachutist restraints fitted to the aircraft; and
- (b) wears the parachutist restraint at all times below 1,000 feet AGL and at any other time as directed by the pilot.

7.2.3 Dual Controls

A parachutist must not occupy a control seat or other position in an aircraft at which dual controls are fitted except with the approval of the Pilot in command and DZSO.

7.3 Power to Ground Equipment and Issue Service Bulletins

- (a) The following Officers possess the power to ground any equipment that they consider to be dangerous or failing to comply with APF Equipment Standards:
 - (i) STM;
 - (ii) NRO; and
 - (iii) NAO.
- (b) The following people also possess the power to ground equipment in accordance with 7.3(a) but only for the time it takes to notify relevant APF National Officer or STM:
 - (i) Packer A;
 - (ii) Rigger;
 - (iii) DZSO;
 - (iv) CI; and
 - (v) STO.

- (c) Equipment may remain grounded until the STM or a National Officer acting within their respective technical area has resolved the matter.
- (d) The NAO and NRO, acting only within their respective technical area, the STM and the APF Technical & Safety Committee have the power to issue Service Bulletins.

PART 8 – WEATHER LIMITATIONS AND DROP ZONE REQUIREMENTS

Note: This Part was removed. For Weather Limitations – see OR 6.4; For Dropzones – see RS 58.

PART 9 – REQUIREMENTS FOR SPECIFIC TYPES OF DESCENTS

9.1 Freefall Relative Work (RW) General

9.1.1 Supervision

- (a) All types of RW in freefall that do not involve any training must be carried out with the approval of, and under the direct supervision of the DZSO in accordance with OR 6.1.5.
- (b) All types of training descents as defined under OR 11.1.3 must be made under the supervision of a CI and under the direct supervision of an instructor with a DZSO endorsement.

9.1.2 RW Minimum Experience

With the exception of training descents under Part 11 of these regulations, a parachutist must not participate in any type of freefall RW descent unless the parachutist holds at least a Certificate Class B.

Note: See ORs 11.4.3 and 11.4.4 regarding restrictions on Student and Novice RW.

9.1.3 Relative Descents with More than 10 Parachutists

Participants in a freefall RW descent involving more than 10 parachutists must hold an Australian Star Crest (ASC) or a foreign equivalent acceptable to the APF.

9.1.4 Separation Height

Parachutists on any type of freefall RW descent must discontinue RW and separate at least 1,000 feet above the planned deployment height.

9.2 Freely Descents

9.2.1 Freely Training Prerequisites

Before commencing freely training descents, a parachutist must:

- (a) hold at least a Certificate Class B;
- (b) have equipment that is suitable for freely; and
- (c) have completed a course of instruction in accordance with the TOM.

9.2.2 Freely Training Table Progression

- (a) Subject to OR 11.1.6, each stage of the Freely Training Table must be completed to the satisfaction of the DZSO before the parachutist is permitted to advance to the next stage.
- (b) A parachutist who holds a Certificate Class B or higher may with DZSO approval:
 - (i) participate in 2-way freely; or
 - (ii) subject to OR 9.2.2 (c) and the TOM, participate in 3-way freely where additionally approved by the DZSO for that training jump.
- (c) Freeflyers must:
 - (i) have completed Stage 1 of the Freely Training Table (Head-Up Level 1) before participating in Freely Crest Head-Down training descents;
 - (ii) hold a Freely Crest Head-Up (FFC-HU) or a foreign equivalent acceptable to the APF in order to participate in head-up freely jumps of more than three parachutists;
 - (iii) hold a Freely Crest Head-Down (FFC-HD) or a foreign equivalent acceptable to the APF in order to participate in head-down freely jumps of more than three parachutists; and
 - (iv) hold an Australian Star Crest or a foreign equivalent acceptable to the APF in order to participate in freely jumps of more than 10 parachutists.

9.2.3 Audible Altimeter

- (a) A parachutist on any type of freely descent must wear a functioning audible altimeter.
- (b) The altimeter must be:
 - (i) approved by the manufacturer for the purpose of skydiving;
 - (ii) mounted so that it is clearly audible throughout the descent; and
 - (iii) set to indicate the height above the DZ.

9.3 Canopy Relative Work (CRW) Descents

9.3.1 CRW Training Prerequisites

Before commencing CRW training descents, a parachutist must hold:

- (a) at least a Certificate Class B; or
- (b) a Certificate Class A and have demonstrated outstanding competence, reliability and common sense to the CI who gives written and signed approval for the parachutists to make the CRW descent; and must have:
- (c) equipment that is suitable for use in CRW; and
- (d) completed a course of instruction in accordance with the TOM.

9.3.2 CRW Training Table Progression

- (a) Subject to OR 11.1.6, each stage of the CRW Training Table must be performed to the satisfaction of the DZSO before the parachutist is permitted to advance to the next stage.
- (b) Where the exit height permits, more than one stage of the CRW Training Table may be completed on a single descent.

9.3.3 Minimum Working Height

- (a) During CRW training descents, the minimum working height must be 2,000 feet.
- (b) During CRW descents that do not involve any training, the minimum working height may be determined by the DZSO.

Note: See also OR 10.1.8.

9.3.4 CRW Equipment

Main parachutes designed for CRW can be verified as compatible with the rest of the parachute system by a CRW coach, if:

- (a) it is used for a CRW descent only;
- (b) it is used by a member holding at least a certificate Class B; and
- (c) verification is documented.

9.4 Wingsuit Descents

9.4.1 Wingsuit Training Prerequisites

Before commencing wingsuit training descents, a parachutist must:

- (a) hold at least a Certificate Class D;
- (b) have equipment that is suitable for wingsuit flying; and
- (c) have completed a course of instruction in accordance with the TOM.

9.4.2 Wingsuit Training Table Progression

- (a) Subject to OR 11.1.6, each stage of the Wingsuit Training Table (WSTT) must be performed to the satisfaction of the Wingsuit Coach and DZSO before the parachutist is permitted to advance to the next stage.
- (b) After successfully completing Part A of the WSTT, the parachutist:
 - (i) must obtain the written and signed approval of a Wingsuit Coach and a CI in order to participate in relative work during a wingsuit descent, and
 - (ii) wingsuit RW is restricted to the training descents defined in the WSTT Part B.
- (c) Before the issue of a Wingsuit Crest, the parachutist must successfully complete Part C of the WSTT.

9.4.3 Audible Altimeter

All parachutists on any type of wingsuit descent must wear a functioning audible altimeter which must be:

- (a) approved by the manufacturer for the purpose of parachuting;
- (b) mounted so that it is clearly audible throughout the descent; and
- (c) set to indicate the height above the DZ.

9.4.4 Wingsuit Descent Conditions

- (a) For all wingsuit descents, the parachutist must not enter cloud, regardless of whether the operation has the written approval referred to in OR 6.4.1.
- (b) For wingsuit training progression descents, the minimum exit height must be 10,000 feet AGL.

9.5 Night Descents

9.5.1 Night Training Prerequisites

A parachutist must not make a night descent unless the parachutist holds:

- (a) at least a Certificate Class C; or
- (b) a Certificate Class B and has demonstrated competence, reliability and common sense to the CI who gives written and signed approval for the parachutist to make night descents.

9.5.2 Night Training Progression

- (a) Before progressing to any other night descent, a parachutist must complete night orientation training descents in accordance with the TOM.
- (b) Each parachutist on a night descent must have a CI's written and signed approval:
 - (i) of having completed a course of instruction in accordance with the TOM conducted by an instructor with either a DZSO or Course Trainer endorsement and night jumping experience; and
 - (ii) after completing the progression requirements in accordance with the TOM, to participate in any night relative work.

9.5.3 Parachutist Equipment

Each parachutist on a night descent must:

- (a) wear an illuminated visual altimeter approved by the DZSO;
- (b) carry a securely attached torch approved by the DSZO; and
- (c) wear a functioning audible altimeter that must be:
 - (i) approved by the manufacturer for the purpose of skydiving;
 - (ii) mounted so that it is clearly audible throughout the descent; and
 - (iii) set to indicate the height above the DZ; and
- (d) not wear tinted or coloured goggles, helmet visors or glasses.

9.5.4 Night Descents Conditions

Night descents must be made only under the following conditions:

- (a) The aircraft is operated to night VMC, VFR or IFR procedures;
- (b) The target is illuminated so that it is clearly visible throughout the descent; and
- (c) Ground wind speed is below 12 knots.

9.5.5 Pyrotechnic Flares

Pyrotechnic flares must not be used during freefall on night descents unless approved by the STO.

9.5.6 Night Tandem Descents

A student parachutist may be carried as a tandem parachutist for a night tandem descent only by a Tandem Master who:

- (a) holds a Display Pro rating or higher; and
- (b) has made at least 100 tandem descents as Tandem Master

9.6 Water Descents

9.6.1 Water Descents Conditions

Deliberate descents into water must be made only under the following conditions:

- (a) Each parachutist, including the DZSO must have completed a course of instruction conducted by an instructor with either a DZSO or Course Trainer endorsement and with water jumping experience covering all aspects of water descents;
- (b) A sufficient number of suitable vessels must be standing by to pick up the parachutists; and
- (c) In accordance with OR 7.1.4, each parachutist must wear floatation equipment that complies with the APF Equipment Standards.

9.7 Camera Descents

9.7.1 Approval

- (a) All camera descents must be made with the approval of a DZSO.
- (b) Handcam descents by Tandem Masters must be in accordance with OR 11.2.12.

9.7.2 Parachutist Requirements

Except for the Tandem Master handcam requirement defined under OR 11.2.12 (b) and notwithstanding OR 9.7.1, a parachutist must not carry a camera during a descent unless the parachutist:

- (a) wears a functioning audible altimeter which must be:
 - (i) approved by the manufacturer for the purpose of skydiving;

- (ii) mounted so that it is clearly audible throughout the descent; and
- (iii) set to indicate the height above the DZ; and
- (b) holds at least a Certificate Class D for an AFF descent; or
- (c) holds at least a Certificate Class C.

9.8 High Altitude Descents

9.8.1 Descents above FL 150 (15,000ft AMSL) and below FL 180 (18,000 AMSL)

Descents above FL 150 and below FL 180 are subject to the following conditions:

- (a) If a descent is to be made from above FL 150, each parachutist must have access to and use supplemental oxygen above 12,000 feet AMSL while in the aircraft;
- (b) No student or novice descents are to be conducted including AFF, tandem or SFF;
- (c) Each parachutist must receive instruction on all aspects of the descent;
- (d) The descent must be conducted in accordance with written specifications and training approved by the STM;
- (e) Approved training is to be conducted by a minimum of an instructor with a Course Trainer endorsement; and
- (f) Each parachutist must hold at least a Certificate Class C.

9.8.2 Descents above FL 180 (18,000ft AMSL) and below FL 250 (25,000 AMSL)

Descents from above FL 180 and below FL 250 are subject to the following conditions:

- (a) All requirements of OR 9.8.1 must have been adhered to; and
- (b) A detailed, comprehensive written operational plan covering all aspects of the intended descent must have been submitted to and approved by the NAO, NRO and STM.

9.9 Tracking and Angles Descents

9.9.1 Tracking and Angles Prerequisites

Before commencing tracking or angles training descents, a parachutist must:

- (a) hold at least a Certificate Class B;
- (b) have equipment that is suitable for tracking or angles; and
- (c) have received a course of instruction in tracking and navigation approved by the CI.

9.9.2 Tracking and Angles Requirements

- (a) Novices are permitted to take part in solo tracking or angles descents under direct supervision of DZSO.
- (b) A parachutist who holds a Certificate Class B may participate in up to 3-way tracking descents.
- (c) A parachutist who holds a Certificate Class C or higher:
 - (i) may take part in a tracking or angles descent under the supervision of a DZSO-approved leader.
 - (ii) Must have the written logbook endorsement from the DZSO at the intended dropzone to take part in tracking or angles descents greater than a 3-way.
- (d) Tracking and Angles participants must:
 - (i) prior to the jump, must be able to demonstrate a clear flight-path plan and an understanding of the current jump run to the DZSO.
 - (ii) hold an Australian Star Crest or a foreign equivalent acceptable to the APF in order to participate in tracking or angles jumps of more than 10 parachutists.

9.9.3 Leading Tracking and Angles Descent

- (a) To lead a tracking or angles descent, a leader must be:
 - (i) an approved Freefly Coach or hold a Certificate Class C; and
 - (ii) approved by a DZSO at the intended dropzone
- (b) To lead a tracking or angles descent with over 8 participants, the leader must be:
 - (i) an approved Freefly Coach or have completed 300 tracking/angles jumps; and
 - (ii) approved by a DZSO at the intended dropzone.
- (c) To be approved by a DZSO, the intended leader must demonstrate a clear understanding and knowledge of the specific dropzone's;
 - (i) jump runs;
 - (ii) exit order procedures;
 - (iii) possible freefall drift (knowledge of upper winds and wind shear); and
 - (iv) opening locations.

If at any time the DZSO deems the leader "not safe" to lead, they may revoke the leaders right to do so.

9.10 High Performance Landings

9.10.1 High Performance Landings Prerequisites

Before commencing high performance landings, a parachutist must:

- (a) either:
 - (i) hold at least a Certificate Class D; or
 - (ii) hold a Certificate Class C and have demonstrated outstanding competence, reliability and common sense to the CI who gives signed approval for the parachutist to make a High Performance Landing; and
- (b) wear a functioning digital altimeter; and
- (c) have completed a course of instruction approved by the CI and the CP Expert Panel.

PART 10 – PARACHUTING DISPLAYS

10.1 Parachuting Displays

Note: See also RS 52 and 58.

10.1.1 Parachuting Display Conduct

Unless approved by the STM, parachuting displays must be conducted only in accordance with this Part of the regulations and supporting APF Display Manual.

10.1.2 Display Organiser Responsibilities

A parachuting display must not be conducted except under the authority of a Display Organiser who must ensure that:

- (a) reasonable precautions have been taken in respect to the safety of the public;
- (b) each parachutist involved in a parachuting display holds the appropriate:
 - (i) display rating; and
 - (ii) APF parachutist certificate class for the intended descent; and
- (c) any parachutist making a display descent has made at least three descents within the previous 90 days;
- (d) the necessary notifications are made to the APF;
- (e) the aircraft is properly prepared for parachuting operations; and
- (f) the necessary log of all parachuting displays which he or she organises, which contains the following information:
 - (i) the time, date and APF display lodgement number of the descent which must have been lodged with APF Office before commencement of the display;
 - (ii) the precise location of the landing area;
 - (iii) the type/registration of aircraft and the pilot in command;
 - (iv) an account of any incident, occurrence, accident or injury;
 - (v) any waiver against any regulation issued with respect to the parachuting display; and
 - (vi) display ratings and the details listed in OR 12.3.3.

10.1.3 Distance between Target and Spectators

Subject to OR 10.1.5, the minimum area that is free of landing hazards and minimum distance between the spectators and the target at a parachuting display must be in accordance with RS 58, 10.2.

10.1.4 Minimum Height over Spectators

A parachutist on a parachuting display must not fly over any member of the public at a height of less than 50 feet, taken from the lowest point of the parachutist or any item being carried on the parachutist for the display.

Note: This includes all members of the public whether or not they are spectators at the display and includes those using roadways, etc.

10.1.5 Ground Wind Speed

- (a) A parachutist must not plan to land closer than 50 metres to the spectators if the ground wind speed exceeds 15 knots.
- (b) A parachuting display descent must not be made if the ground wind speed exceeds 25 knots during the day or 12 knots at night or any lower limit determined by the DZSO. *(See 6.4.2(b) for measurement of wind speed.)*

10.1.6 Exit Height

- (a) A parachutist who holds a Display Open rating may elect to exit the aircraft at a height not less than 1,500 feet AGL on a parachute display and any practice descents for a particular parachuting display.
- (b) Where the exit height is lowered pursuant to OR 10.1.6 (a), each parachutist must exit separately and deploy immediately.

10.1.7 Aircraft Operations

At a parachuting display there must be a holder of at least a Certificate Class D in the aircraft directing the operation.

10.1.8 Canopy Relative Work Requirements

Prior to engaging in canopy relative work at a parachuting display, all parachutists must have completed successfully at least five practice descents, during which:

- (a) the same CRW actions to be performed at the parachuting display must have been performed in the five practice descents; and
- (b) all parachutists landed within 25 metres of the target centre.

10.1.9 Flag Requirements

A flag may be carried on a parachuting display providing:

- (a) the descent has the approval of the Display Organiser;
- (b) the flag complies with APF Equipment Standards relating to flags;
- (c) the parachutist has successfully completed at least two practice descents, during which:
 - (i) a flag and harness assembly similar in size and design to be used on the display must have been used; and
 - (ii) the parachutist landed within 25 metres of the target centre.

10.1.10 Display Descents by Student Parachutists

Student parachutists must not make descents at parachuting displays, other than as a tandem parachutist, and only providing that:

- (a) the descent is authorised by a CI; and
- (b) the Tandem Master holds:
 - (i) a Display Pro rating, and has documented evidence of at least 50 descents as Tandem Master; or
 - (ii) a Display General rating and has documented evidence of at least 100 descents as Tandem Master.

10.2 Display Rating Assessments

An STO or an examiner appointed by the APF will conduct assessments in accordance with the APF Display Manual.

PART 11 – TRAINING

11.1 General requirements ALL Training Descents

11.1.1 Training Syllabus

- (a) Details of a group member's training syllabus must be contained in its TOM.
- (b) A proposal for a non-standard TOM or modified sections of a TOM must be submitted by the group member's CI for consideration and approval by the STM.

11.1.2 Student Parachutist Licence

Training descents may only be made by the holder of at least an APF student parachutist licence.

11.1.3 Deemed Training Descents

The following descents are deemed to be training descents:

- (a) descents made by parachutists under the age of 18 years;
- (b) descents made by parachutists who do not hold a Certificate Class B;
- (c) night descent training as defined under ORs 9.5.1 and 9.5.2;
- (d) freely training as defined under ORs 9.2.1 and 9.2.2;
- (e) wingsuit training as defined under ORs 9.4.1 and 9.4.2;
- (f) orientation flights;
- (g) CRW training as defined under ORs 9.3.1 and 9.3.2;
- (h) water jump training;
- (i) conversion training;
- (j) high performance landing training under OR 9.10.1; and
- (k) basic canopy training as recommended by TOM Appendix G/H/I.

11.1.4 CI Supervision

All training descents must be made only under the supervision of a CI in accordance with OR 6.1.3.

Notes: The direct supervision requirements for student parachutist training descents are listed in ORs 11.2.1, 11.3.1 and 11.3.2. See RS 54, 4 for minimum requirements for CI approval.

11.1.5 DZSO Authority

In accordance with OR 9.1.1 (b), training descents must be made only with the authorisation of, and under the direct supervision of the DZSO.

11.1.6 Appropriate Rating / Endorsement

Training must only be conducted by an instructor or coach who holds the appropriate rating and/or endorsement or coach approval.

11.1.7 Log Requirements

Notwithstanding OR 12.2.1, the Instructor or coach must enter comments about the training descent in the parachutist's log and must sign the entry.

11.1.8 First Descent Requirements

- (a) Student parachutists must not make a first descent unless the student parachutist has:
 - (i) completed a course of instruction in accordance with the TOM; and
 - (ii) passed a practical assessment conducted under the supervision of a CI, which tests the student parachutist's ability to complete the tasks required for a first descent.
- (b) In addition to OR 11.1.8 (a), student parachutists must not make a first descent on the SFF (static-line or instructor-assisted deployment) or AFF Training Table unless they have passed a written assessment set and conducted under the supervision of a CI and approved by the STM which assesses their knowledge of the subject matter of the first descent.

11.1.9 Orientation Flights

Notwithstanding OR 2.3.1 (a), student parachutists must not make orientation flights unless they have received the pre-flight instruction specified in the TOM conducted by an instructor with either a DZSO or Course Trainer endorsement.

11.1.10 Student Equipment

A student parachutist must be equipped with an AAD on all freefall descents so that where the AAD is fitted to the:

- (a) **main parachute:** the AAD will be set to activate no lower than 1,000 ft below the planned opening height; and/or
- (b) **reserve parachute:** the AAD must be approved by the manufacturer of the parachute harness.

11.1.11 Pre-boarding Briefing

Prior to boarding the aircraft, student parachutists must be briefed on all aspects of their intended descent.

11.1.12 Canopy Control Assistance

- (a) An effective means of communicating canopy control directions to a student parachutist must be established.
- (b) Canopy control directions must be given to a student parachutist for at least the first three descents on a Training Table and thereafter until the DZSO is satisfied that the directions are no longer necessary.

11.2 Tandem Descents

11.2.1 Direct Supervision

A Tandem Master who has made **less than 50 descents** as Tandem Master must not carry a tandem parachutist except under the direct supervision of a DZSO who has made at least 50 descents as Tandem Master.

11.2.2 Qualifications

Notwithstanding OR 11.2.3, the Tandem Master must hold a valid and current instructor rating with a valid tandem endorsement.

11.2.3 Tandem Endorsement Applicants

An applicant for a tandem endorsement may act as a Tandem Master only:

- (a) if the application for a tandem endorsement has been processed by the APF Office;
- (b) while the applicant is under the direct supervision of a Tandem Examiner; and
- (c) while the applicant is carrying the holder of a parachutist certificate.

11.2.4 Tandem Passenger Requirement

The passenger on a tandem descent must hold at least a Student Parachutist Licence.

11.2.5 AAD Requirements

A tandem descent must not be made unless the equipment is fitted with an operational AAD approved by the manufacturer of the equipment.

11.2.6 RSL Requirements

A Tandem Master must use a connected RSL on a tandem descent unless the CI under whose authority the descent is conducted, has approved otherwise.

11.2.7 Equipment Check

A tandem descent must not be made unless the Tandem Master checks the parachute equipment immediately before emplaning.

11.2.8 Aircraft Restraints Tandem Parachutists

Unless otherwise approved in writing by the STM, tandem parachutists must be restrained in the aircraft at all times while in flight in such a manner that enables them to be attached to the Tandem Master before being detached from the restraint.

11.2.9 Minimum Open Height

For tandem descents, the main parachute must be open by 4,000 feet AGL.

11.2.10 RW involving Tandem Master

A parachutist must not engage in Relative Work with a Tandem Master carrying a tandem parachutist unless the parachutist:

- (a) is the holder of at least a Certificate Class C;
- (b) has the authorisation of the DZSO; and
- (c) has the authorisation of the Tandem Master.

11.2.11 Canopy Relative Work

A Tandem Master must not engage in canopy relative work during a tandem descent and no other parachutist may engage in canopy relative work with a tandem parachute.

11.2.12 Handcam

- (a) A Tandem Master must not use a handcam while carrying a student parachutist unless the CI has approved the camera and mount and the Tandem Master has:
 - (i) completed at least 100 tandem descents since gaining the tandem endorsement;
 - (ii) completed a course of instruction approved by the CI;
 - (iii) the CI's written and signed approval documented in their logbook; and
 - (iv) made one handcam jump with a parachutist who holds a parachutist certificate before using it with a student parachutist.
- (b) A Tandem Master must wear a functional audible altimeter for at least the first 50 handcam descents and thereafter at the discretion of the CI.

11.2.13 Class E and F DZs

A Tandem Master must have documented evidence of at least 50 descents as a Tandem Master before being permitted to make a tandem descent onto a Class E or F DZ.

11.3 AFF, TAF and SFF Descents

11.3.1 Direct Supervision AFF and TAF Descents

AFF and TAF descents made under the Freefall Training Table must be made under the direct supervision of an instructor with DZSO and AFF endorsements.

11.3.2 Direct Supervision SFF Descents

Descents made under the SFF Training Table (SLD or IAD) must:

- (a) for Stages 1 (a) and (b) be made under the direct supervision of an instructor with a DZSO endorsement and the applicable SFF sub-endorsement (SLD or IAD);
- (b) for Stage 2 to 9, be made under the direct supervision of an instructor with a DZSO endorsement and a SFF endorsement with either SLD or IAD sub-endorsement.

11.3.3 Instructor Qualifications TAF Descent

The Tandem Master on a TAF descent from the Freefall Training Table must have valid AFF and tandem endorsements and have completed at least 50 tandem descents as Tandem Master.

11.3.4 Student Progression

Each stage of a student Training Table must be completed on separate descents and to the satisfaction of the DZSO.

11.3.5 SFF Training Table

Before making a freefall descent, a student parachutist undergoing training in the SFF Training Table (either SLD or IAD) must make:

- (a) Three SLD or IAD descents each with a successful practice pull, the final two of which must be consecutive; and
- (b) an SLD or IAD descent with successful practise pulls in the 48 hours immediately preceding the student parachutist's first freefall descent.

11.3.6 Aircraft Direct Supervision

An instructor must accompany a student parachutist in the aircraft until at least stage six of a student Training Table has been completed successfully and thereafter until the DZSO is satisfied that the presence of an instructor is no longer required.

11.3.7 Instructor to Wear Parachute

The instructor responsible for the direct supervision of student parachutists in an aircraft in flight must wear a parachute system.

11.3.8 Pre-boarding Equipment Check

An instructor must check each student parachutist's equipment immediately prior to boarding the aircraft.

11.3.9 Flatfly RW Descent

Student parachutists must not make a flatfly RW descent before the last descent of a student Training Table except under the provisions of the TOM.

11.3.10 Certificate Class A Training

A student parachutist's training for a Certificate Class A must conform to the TOM and to either the:

- (a) Solo Freefall (SFF) Training Table; or
- (b) Accelerated Freefall (AFF) Training Table.

11.4 Student, Novice Descents and Flatfly RW Training

11.4.1 Direct Supervision Requirements

Parachutists who have not qualified for a Certificate Class B must not make flatfly RW descents except under the direct supervision of an instructor holding a DZSO endorsement and AFF or SFF endorsement.

11.4.2 Certificate 'Class B Training Table' (CBTT)

- (a) Each stage of the CBTT must be performed satisfactorily before the parachutist is permitted to advance to the next stage.
- (b) Completion of the CBTT requires a minimum of 10 minutes freefall time.
- (c) Where the exit height permits, more than one stage may be completed on a single descent.

11.4.3 RW Descents Not Part of CBTT

- (a) A student parachutist must not participate in any flatfly RW descents unless the other parachutist is an instructor.
- (b) With the approval of the DZSO, a novice parachutist who has completed stages one to four of the CBTT may participate in flatfly RW descents with one other parachutist providing the exits are also flatfly in orientation.

11.4.4 RW Descents After Stage 5

- (a) A parachutist who has completed stages one to five of the CBTT, or who has completed stages one to six but has not qualified for a Certificate Class B, may engage in flatfly RW with no more than three other parachutists, providing the DZSO has:
 - (i) given written and signed approval in the parachutist's logbook; and
 - (ii) has approved the other participants for the descent.
- (b) Where the parachutist does not hold a Certificate Class A, RW descents may only be conducted as attempts to complete stage six of the CBTT and at least one of the other participants must hold an instructor rating.

Note: For further clarification on minimum requirements for flat-fly RW, see the matrix in the TOM 4.1.5.

PART 12 – RECORDS: LOGS, INCIDENT NOTIFICATION/REPORTS AND PACKING RECORDS

12.1 Retention and Inspection of Logs and Records

- (a) Original records must be retained in a legible and retrievable manner for seven years by Group Members and Display Organisers and provided to the APF Office or any authorised officer of APF or CASA upon request.

Note: For parachutists under 18 years of age, Australian law requires that records be maintained for seven years after the person reaches the age of 18 (i.e. until they reach age 25).

- (b) Logs and records may be used to verify the issue or revalidation of any certificate, licence, crest or rating.

12.2 Parachutist's Log

12.2.1 Parachutists Must Keep a Log

Except for student tandem parachutists who are not making their tandem descent as part of a Training Table, all parachutists must keep a log of their descents.

12.2.2 Log Details

The minimum level of detail required for each log entry, based on the type of descent and the parachutist's level of experience and qualifications, are:

- (a) For deemed training descents defined by OR 11.1.3, the log must be signed by the Instructor or coach in accordance with OR 11.1.7 and must contain at least:
 - (i) the type of descent;
 - (ii) the date on which the descent was made;
 - (iii) location of the DZ; and
 - (iv) exit height.
- (b) For qualifying descents for certificates and ratings, each log entry must provide the detail and witness verification in accordance with RS 52, 4.1.
- (c) For highly experienced parachutists where further certificates, crests, ratings or endorsements are not being sought, electronic records may be acceptable.

12.3 Master Log

12.3.1 Group Member's Log

Each group member must keep a master log recording all descents made under its auspices.

12.3.2 Operations Conducted Other than by Group member

Where operations are conducted other than by a group member, the DZSO must ensure that a master log and incident notifications are completed as required by these regulations.

12.3.3 Master Log Contents

The DZSO is responsible for ensuring that the master log contains:

- (a) hours of CI attendance;
- (b) the full name of the DZSO;
- (c) the full name of the GCA;
- (d) location of the DZ;
- (e) aircraft registration and pilot's full name;
- (f) Loadmaster's full name;
- (g) full name of each parachutist;
- (h) exit height of each descent;
- (i) type of descent, i.e. Tandem, AFF, SLD, IAD or experienced; and
- (j) date of descent.

12.4 Parachute Maintenance Log

12.4.1 Parachute Packing and Rigging Records

- (a) Packer A's and Riggers must keep a record of all packing, inspection, maintenance, repair, modification or alteration of parachute equipment performed or supervised by them in a parachute maintenance log.
- (b) Notwithstanding OR 12.5.4, the inspection and packing of main parachute canopies are not required to be recorded in any parachute maintenance log.

12.4.2 Parachute Maintenance Log Details

The parachute maintenance log must contain:

- (a) type and make of parachute equipment;
- (b) dates of manufacture and serial numbers;
- (c) name and contact details of owner;
- (d) date and description of maintenance performed; and
- (e) results of any tests conducted.

12.5 Parachute Packing Record

12.5.1 Packing Cards

In accordance with OR 12.5.2 (b) and (c), each reserve/emergency parachute and tandem passenger harness must have a packing card which includes:

- (a) make and type of the certified components (system harness/container, parachute and AAD as applicable);
- (b) dates of manufacture and serial numbers;
- (c) for an AAD, the limits of its serviceability, service expiry date and required battery change date, as applicable;
- (d) record of work performed;
- (e) identification and signature of the Packer A or Rigger who performed the work;
- (f) date on which the parachute was last certified as airworthy; and
- (g) if being certified to an earlier date than the maximum period permitted under OR 12.5.2 (b) and (c), the date on which the next inspection and repack is due.

12.5.2 Reserve/Emergency Parachute and Tandem Passenger Harness Airworthiness Requirements

- (a) A reserve/emergency parachute can only be certified as airworthy by the holder of at least a Packer A who has packed or directly supervised the packing and who has assured themselves that:
 - (i) all parts of the parachute assembly are fully functional and compatible, as per APF Equipment Standards; and
 - (ii) all mandatory requirements of service bulletins, APF equipment standards and any airworthiness directives have been complied with.
- (b) Student, Tandem reserve and Pilot emergency parachute equipment as well as tandem passenger harness, may be certified as airworthy for a period of up to six months by the holder of at least a Packer A signing the parachute packing record as required by OR 12.5.1.
- (c) Certificate Class A holders and above reserve parachute equipment may be certified as airworthy for a period of up to 12 months by the holder of at least a Packer A signing the parachute packing record as required by OR 12.5.1. In this case, the use of a checklist (APF Form P3 or Certifier's modified version) is recommended.

12.5.3 AAD Service or Replacement

- (a) The holder of at least a Packer A may certify as airworthy, a reserve/emergency parachute after opening and closing the container in order to service or replace an AAD provided that this is the same person that last signed the packing records required by OR 12.5.1.
- (b) A record of the work done is to be made on the Packing Card and in the Parachute Maintenance Log.
- (c) Any work performed under this regulation does not extend the period of airworthiness under OR 12.5.2.

12.5.4 Student and Tandem Equipment Log

Each member Training Organisation must keep an equipment log containing a record of all packing of parachutes used for descents by student parachutists, Tandem Masters and tandem parachutists as follows:

- (a) **For main parachutes:**
 - (i) make, type and serial numbers of the equipment;
 - (ii) the identification of the packer;
 - (iii) the date the parachute was packed; and
 - (iv) any comments regarding the parachute condition or performance.
- (b) **For reserve parachutes, AAD's and Tandem passenger harnesses:**
 - (i) make and type;
 - (ii) date of manufacture and serial numbers of certified components;
 - (iii) for an AAD, the limits of its serviceability, service expiry date and required battery change date, as applicable;
 - (iv) a record of work performed;
 - (v) the identification of the Packer A or Rigger who performed the work;

- (vi) the date on which the components are deemed airworthy; and
- (vii) any comments regarding the condition or performance.

12.6 Incident Notification and Equipment Defect / Rigging Reporting

Incident notification and equipment defect/rigging reporting must be in accordance with RS 55.

PART 13 – AUTHORITIES / POWERS

Note: This part was removed 15 May 2017. For Enforcement Powers, see Misconduct Policy and Procedures Manual; For Waiver of Regulations, and issue of Technical Directives and Service Bulletins, see OR 1.2 and OR 7.3; For Grounding Equipment – see OR 7.3; For DZ Conditions, see RS 58.

PART 14 – INSTRUCTOR RATINGS, ENDORSEMENTS AND COACH APPROVALS

14.1 General requirements

14.1.1 Fit and Proper Person

Instructor ratings and endorsements and coach approvals are issued, held and renewed subject to the applicant being in the opinion of the APF:

- (a) a fit and proper person to discharge the duties and responsibilities and exercise the rights and privileges associated with the rating or endorsement or approval; and
- (b) a person of good repute having regard to character, integrity, honesty and the policies and principles of the APF.

14.1.2 Acting as Instructor or Coach

Notwithstanding OR 14.5.1, a person must not act as an Instructor or coach unless:

- (a) the person is the holder of a valid instructor rating or coach approval; and
- (b) the person acts in accordance with the privileges of the ratings and endorsements held and coach approval.

14.2 Instructor Ratings and Endorsements

14.2.1 Instructor Ratings

The APF issues an Instructor rating and a Senior Instructor rating, which must be achieved and authorised, held and revalidated in accordance with RS 53.

14.2.2 Endorsements

The APF issues the following five types of endorsement to instructor ratings, which must be achieved and authorised, held and revalidated in accordance with RS 53:

- (a) Course Trainer;
- (b) Drop Zone Safety Officer (DZSO);
- (c) AFF;
- (d) SFF, with two sub-endorsements for SLD and IAD; and
- (e) Tandem with equipment sub-endorsements.

14.2.3 STM Waiver

The STM may recognise an applicant's prior experience and issue a written waiver to any of the listed requirements of an instructor rating.

14.3 Coach Approvals

14.3.1 Coach Approval Disciplines

The APF appoints coaches in six disciplines in accordance with RS 53, being:

- (a) Certificate B Coach;
- (b) freefly;
- (c) wingsuit;
- (d) high performance canopy;
- (e) CRW; and
- (f) Canopy Coach.

14.4 Chief Instructor Approval

14.4.1 CI Approval

CI approval will be in accordance with this OR 14.4 and RS 54.

14.4.2 Existing CI Approval

- (a) An existing approval as CI may be reviewed at any time by the STM, who may:
 - (i) vary any existing conditions imposed on the approval; and/or
 - (ii) suspend the approval.
- (b) A Review Panel may:
 - (i) recommend to the STM that an approval as CI should:
 - a. have the conditions of approval varied; or
 - b. be suspended or cancelled.

14.4.3 Termination of Approval

- (a) An approval as CI of a member Training Organisation must cease if:
 - (i) the CI no longer satisfies the requirements of RS 54; or
 - (ii) the Training Organisation ceases to be a member of the APF or changes to non-training; or
 - (iii) the Training Organisation specifies in writing to the STM that it no longer intends to engage the person in the capacity of CI; or
 - (iv) the CI notifies the STM in writing of their resignation; or
 - (v) the approval is terminated by a Review Panel pursuant to OR 14.4.2(b).
- (b) Except with the authorisation of the STM, an approval as CI must be terminated where the CI does not attend at least one APF Conference in every 39-month period.

14.5 Instructor and Coach Privileges

Note: Only instructors who hold a Course Trainer endorsement are authorised to instruct student parachutists in emergency and classroom training, or to conduct classroom training of novice parachutists.

14.5.1 Privileges of an Instructor with AFF, SFF or Tandem Endorsement

The privileges of an Instructor with an AFF, SFF or Tandem endorsement are to:

- (a) instruct parachutists in the briefing, descent and debriefing phases in the discipline for which the endorsement and sub-endorsements are held; and
- (b) brief, accompany and debrief student and novice parachutists on Certificate Class B Training descents with the permission of the DZSO.

14.5.2 Privileges of an Instructor with an AFF Endorsement

In addition to the privileges described in OR 14.5.1, an instructor who holds a valid AFF endorsement may dispatch student parachutists performing freefall descents on the SFF Training Table, providing the DZSO is an Instructor who holds a DZSO endorsement and an endorsement in the specific dispatch method (SLD or IAD).

14.5.3 Privileges of an Instructor with an SFF Endorsement

In addition to the privileges described in OR 14.5.1, an instructor who holds a valid SFF endorsement may dispatch student parachutists performing Stage 9 of the Accelerated Freefall Training Table, providing the DZSO is an Instructor who holds a DZSO endorsement and an AFF endorsement.

14.5.4 Privileges of an Instructor with a DZSO Endorsement

- (a) In addition to the privileges described in OR 14.5.1, an instructor who holds a valid DZSO endorsement with an AFF or SFF endorsement may act as DZSO for:
 - (i) student training descents involving only the disciplines for which the instructor is endorsed;
 - (ii) novice training descents;
 and if delegated by the CI to do so.
- (b) An Instructor with DZSO endorsement without an AFF or SFF endorsement can supervise any training descent providing the participant holds a minimum of a Certificate Class B and the training is carried out by a qualified coach or instructor.
- (c) An Instructor with DZSO endorsement without a valid Tandem endorsement may act as DZSO while tandem descents are in progress under the following conditions:
 - (i) the instructor has previously held an APF tandem endorsement;
 - (ii) tandem jumps are conducted on the specific equipment on which the instructor was sub-endorsed; and
 - (iii) subject to the provisions listed in OR 11.2.

14.5.5 Privileges of an Instructor with a Course Trainer Endorsement

In addition to the privileges described in OR 14.5.1, an instructor who holds a valid Course Trainer endorsement may also:

- (a) Instruct student parachutists in approved courses, including classroom training on first jump courses for the disciplines in which the instructor is endorsed;
- (b) Instruct student parachutists in emergency training; and
- (c) Instruct candidates in approved Instructor level courses for those ratings and endorsements the Instructor holds.

14.5.6 Privileges of a Senior Instructor

In addition to the privileges described in OR 14.5.1, a Senior Instructor may be eligible to apply for the position of CI of a Training Organisation or Instructor Examiner.

14.5.7 Privileges of an Instructor with Packer B

The privileges of any instructor who holds a Packer B rating include giving instruction in the assembly, inspection and packing of main parachutes.

14.5.8 Privileges of an Instructor with Packer A

The privileges of any instructor who holds a Packer A rating include giving instruction in the assembly, inspection and packing of reserve parachutes.

14.5.9 Coach Privileges

The privileges of a coach are to brief, accompany and debrief parachutists in the disciplines for which the coach is endorsed but they may not instruct student parachutists.

14.6 Validity of Ratings and Endorsements

APF instructor ratings and endorsements must be held and revalidated in accordance with the provisions of RS 53.

14.7 Instructor Examiner

14.7.1 Instructor Examiner Approval

An Instructor Examiner approval must be made, held and reaffirmed in accordance with the provisions of RS 53.

14.7.2 Instructor Examiner Responsibilities

An Instructor Examiner must:

- (a) only assess candidates for instructor ratings and endorsements as authorised by the APF; and
- (b) conduct all assessments for instructor ratings and endorsement in accordance with the provisions of the Instructor Examiner Manual.

14.8 Suspension and Cancellation of Ratings and Endorsements

14.8.1 Suspension and Cancellation

A Review Panel may, at its discretion, suspend or cancel any rating, endorsement, or approval.

14.8.2 Chief Instructor Cancellation

The initial issue of any Instructor rating or endorsement or a coach approval is subject to cancellation by the CI at any time during the six months only after the rating or endorsement was issued or the approval made.

PART 15 – PARACHUTE PACKING AND RIGGING

15.1 Packer and Rigger Ratings – General

15.1.1 Fit and Proper Person

APF packer and rigger ratings are issued, held and renewed subject to the applicant being in the opinion of the APF:

- (a) a fit and proper person to discharge the duties and responsibilities and exercise the rights and privileges associated with the rating; and
- (b) a person of good repute having regard to character, integrity, honesty and adherence to the policies and principles of the APF.

15.1.2 Packer and Rigger Ratings

The APF issues packer ratings in two levels, Packer B and Packer A, and a rigger rating, which must be approved, held and renewed in accordance with RS 53.

15.2 Packer and Rigger Privileges

15.2.1 Packer B

The privileges of Packer B are to inspect, pack and carry out daily maintenance only on main parachutes with which the Packer B is familiar.

15.2.2 Packer A

The privileges of a Packer A are to:

- (a) exercise all the privileges of a Packer B; and
- (b) inspect, pack, certify as airworthy and carry out daily maintenance only on reserve and emergency parachutes with which the Packer A is familiar.

15.2.3 Rigger

- (a) The privileges of a Rigger are to:
 - (i) exercise the privileges of a Packer A;
 - (ii) carry out repairs provided the repair does not include any design alteration;
 - (iii) carry out modifications or alterations to specifications approved by the NRO or manufacturer of the parachute; and
 - (iv) manufacture non-certified parachute parts.
- (b) A Rigger is required to comply with mandatory APF Equipment Standards for the manufacture or maintenance of both certified and non-certified parachute parts.
- (c) For the purposes of this regulation:
 - (i) a “**certified parachute part**” means a part of an emergency or reserve parachute that is required to comply with APF Equipment Standards;
 - (ii) a “**non-certified parachute part**” means a main parachute and any other part of a parachute, including but not limited to an Automatic Activation Device, in respect of which the APF has issued an APF Equipment Standard; and
 - (iii) the **APF Equipment Standards** must specify if compliance with the standard for the manufacture or maintenance of a part is mandatory or optional.

15.2.4 Rigger Examiner

The privileges of a Rigger Examiner are to conduct assessments for rigger and packer ratings in accordance with:

- (a) these regulations;
- (b) APF Examiners Manual; and
- (c) the directives of the NRO.

15.3 Packing Requirements

15.3.1 CI Authorisation

A CI may authorise a person to pack main parachutes for their own use or for the use of the holder of at least a Certificate Class A providing:

- (a) the parachutist has completed a course of instruction;
- (b) the parachutist has demonstrated competence in the inspection and packing of the parachute type which they are being authorised to pack; and
- (c) the CI has given written and signed approval in the parachutist's log and has specified the type of parachute to which the authority relates.

15.3.2 Packing Recommendations

Parachute packing must be carried out in accordance with the manufacturer's recommendations or the recommendations of an APF recognised publication.

Note: APF recognised publications include Poynter's Parachute Manual and the FAA Rigger Handbook.

15.3.3 Documentation

Immediately after a parachute is packed, the person responsible must complete the documentation required by these regulations and associated service bulletins.

15.3.4 Packing for a Live Drop

Except as authorised in OR 15.3.1, main parachutes must not be packed for live drop except by:

- (a) a Packer B; or
- (b) a Packer A; or
- (c) a Rigger.

15.3.5 Emergency and Reserve Parachutes

Emergency/reserve parachutes must not be packed except by:

- (a) a Packer A; or
- (b) a Rigger; or
- (c) if the parachute has been packed overseas, a certified Rigger of that country, provided that the rigger holds valid rigger qualifications overseas.

15.3.6 Trainee Packer

- (a) A member may apply to become a trainee packer in accordance with RS 53.
- (b) Notwithstanding ORs 15.3.4 and 15.3.5, a parachute for use by another person may be packed by a trainee packer carrying out tasks only as instructed by and under the direct supervision of a trainer specified in RS 53.
- (c) The trainer responsible for the instruction and direct supervision of the trainee packer remains personally responsible for the packing and for complying with ORs 12.4.1, 12.4.2 and 15.3.3.

15.4 Rigging Requirements

15.4.1 Manufacturers' Modifications and Equipment Bulletins

Where a manufacturer issues a recommended modification or equipment bulletin, the APF may require members to comply with the recommendations and may set a compliance date.

15.4.2 Compliance Date Enforcement

Group members are required to enforce compliance dates on their DZ.

Note: Compliance dates are set by National Officers within their area of responsibility.

15.5 Suspension of Packer and Rigger Ratings

15.5.1 Suspension

- (a) The following persons or authorities may suspend a packer or rigger rating:
 - (i) STO;
 - (ii) NRO; or
 - (iii) STM.
- (b) Any suspension applied under OR 15.5.1 (a) must be in accordance with the Misconduct Policy and Procedures Manual.

