



# AUSTRALIAN PARACHUTE FEDERATION

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## **APF TECHNICAL DIRECTIVE - No. APF TD01/2022** **Compliance with Equipment Bulletins (APF and equipment manufacturer)** **Issued 29<sup>th</sup> August 2022**

**SUBJECT:** Compliance by all APF members with equipment manufacturer issued service bulletins.

**BACKGROUND:** Part 105 of the Civil Aviation Safety Regulations came into effect on 2 December 2021. Within that regulation a 'defective reserve parachute' is defined. This definition includes failure to take action in relation to a notice issued by a manufacturer. This can be broadly interpreted to mean any skydiving equipment must comply with all manufacturer's notices.

**NEW PROPOSAL:** Make amendments to Exposition documents (including the Operational Regulations)

**PROPOSED CHANGES:**

### **EXPOSITION**

#### **5.3.4 Parachute In-Service Life**

##### **(a) Parachute Type Certification ~~Parachutes used for Training Operations~~**

Some certificated parachutes have an 'in-service life' specified by the equipment manufacturer in the Owner's Manual, or equivalent, or specified in a Manufacturer **SB**. In all cases the manufacturer's service life limit will be strictly observed by APF Parachute Training Operations and all APF members. ~~for equipment used by student and novice parachutists.~~ This also applies to Automatic Activation Devices fitted to parachute training equipment. See: **OR 12.5.2(b)**.

#### **5.3.5 Airworthiness Directives and Bulletins**

##### **(b) Manufacturer Service Bulletins (SB)**

(ii) When mandatory, the SB will be binding on all equipment used by APF parachute training organisations and all APF members. ~~SBs are recommended, but not mandated, for privately owned personal use parachutes unless a CASA AD mandates the SB in which case the AD and SB is mandatory.~~



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## OPERATIONAL REGULATIONS

### 12.5 Parachute Packing Record

#### 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. ~~if a parachute is to be used by a Student, Novice, Tandem or in an Emergency parachute (being used in support of parachuting activities) it must comply with all mandatory requirements of equipment bulletins and APF Equipment Standards.~~

### 15.4 Rigging Requirements

#### 15.4.1 Manufacturers' Modifications and Equipment Bulletins

- ~~(a)~~ 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.
- ~~(b)~~ ~~Student, Novice, Tandem or Emergency parachute equipment (being used in support of parachuting activities) will comply with manufacturers' mandatory bulletins. An alternative means of compliance that achieves the same safety outcome may be approved by the APF.~~

#### **ACTION:**

**Technical Directive 01/2022** requires all APF members to be compliant with the above proposals.

This Technical Directive will remain effective until the changes are included in the future release of APF Exposition documents.

#### **COMPLIANCE:**

Effective immediately.

*APF members who are the owners of equipment affected by changes to Exposition 5.3.4(a) are required to comply with this Technical Directive before 01/04/2023 (they may continue to use the equipment for their own personal use until that date).*

#### **AUTHORITY:**

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Safety & Training Manager

#### **DISTRIBUTION:**

Through APF Technical Directive system  
APF Members