



RIGGING ADVISORY CIRCULAR

Issue Date: 01 January 1990

RAC No. 106 Rev. A

SUBJECT: REQUIRED RECORDS AND DOCUMENTATION OF PARACHUTE PACKING

STATUS: MANDATORY

BACKGROUND: The requirements for the records and documentation to be completed after the packing of a parachute have developed haphazardly over the years. Packing may be performed by people holding a variety of ratings or authorities to pack; the parachutes they pack may be main or emergency parachutes; and the parachutes may be used by the packer him/herself, a licenced parachutist other than the packer, or by a student.

There is now a need to rationalise and define these requirements. Some changes have been made to Sections 7 and 10 of the Operational Regulations concomitant with the issue of this Rigging Advisory Circular. This Circular expands on the requirements of Operational Regulations Sections 7 and 10.

- APF POLICY:
1. Student Parachutists. If authorised by a Chief Instructor in accordance with Operational Regulations 10.1.1 and 10.2.2 a student may pack main parachutes for his/her own use. The details of the packing are to be recorded in the Training Organisation's Parachute Packing Log.
 2. Licenced Parachutists. May pack main parachutes for their own use or for the use of another licenced parachutists. The details of this packing are not required to be logged.
 3. Packer "B". May pack main parachutes for use by licenced or student parachutists. No record need be kept if the equipment is used by a licenced parachutist, but the details must be recorded in the Training Organisation's Parachute Packing Log if the equipment is used by a student.
 4. Packer "A" and Riggers. May pack main and reserve or emergency parachutes. For main parachutes, the conditions stipulated for Packer "B" apply. For reserve or emergency parachutes, the details are to be recorded both in the Packer's Packing Log, and on the parachute's packing card. If the equipment is used by a student, the details are additionally to be recorded in the Training Organisation's Parachute Packing Log.



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Packing Card

The packer of a reserve or emergency parachute must provide, attached to the parachute in a position where it is readily accessible, a packing card showing the type and make of the equipment, the serial numbers, the date on which the packing was completed, the signature and Packer/Rigger number of the packer, and the date on which the validity expires. If the equipment is operated by a student training organisation, this information may alternately be recorded in the organisation's Parachute Packing Log.

FURTHER INFORMATION: (ADVISORY)

Previously the Operational Regulations have required all packing to be recorded in a log. This includes all main parachutes packed by a licenced parachutists for his/her own use. This regulation has been widely disregarded, and has now been removed. Parachutists should be aware, however, that along with this change in the requirements, there is now th obligation to record the packing of main parachutes for students in the Training Organisation's Parachute Packing Log.

Packers of reserve and emergency parachutes are reminded that, should they choose to seal the pins with thread or a lead seal, some additional security for the packer is provided by noting this fact on the packing card. A parachute which is not sealed, but whose card indicates that it was sealed by the last packer can be considered to be invalid.

It should be noted that logs and packing cards should record not only the make, type and serial number of the canopy packed, but also the make, type and serial number of the harness/container system into which the canopy is packed. Without this detail, there is nothing to identify a packing card with a particular set of gear, except by opening the container to examine the serial number of the canopy.

The record of the owner's name and address int he packer's log is a vital part of the safety recall/information dissemination procedure. Where it is urgent to pass on a safety notice to all users of a (say) particular type of reserve parachute, the person who last serviced that equipment is obliged to be in a position to be able to inform the user of the safety notice. Failure to keep this record could place the packer in a potentially serious legal situation.



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Instructors and riggers should note that when they are supervising packing performed by a trainee packer in accordance with Operational Regulations 10.1.5 and 10.2.1, they (the supervisor) are responsible for completing the required documentation.

The attention of parachutists who do not hold any packer or rigger rating is directed to the requirements of Operational Regulations 10.1.1 and 10.1.2, which require that the competence of a parachutist to pack a particular type of main parachute to be certified by a Chief Instructor in the parachutist's log. In these Regulations, the word "type" is interpreted broadly. That is, a Chief Instructor may certify that a parachutist is competent to pack (say) low-performance round parachutes, or high-performance rounds or ram air parachutes.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Immediately

AUTHORITY: APF Director Rigging

DISTRIBUTION: RAC holders
APF Licenced Parachutists
APF Packer "B" holders