



# RIGGING ADVISORY CIRCULAR

Issue Date: 01 July 1995

RAC No. 203 Rev. B

SUBJECT: APF POLICY FOR DETERMINING IN-SERVICE LIFE FOR PARACHUTE EQUIPMENT

STATUS: ADVISORY

BACKGROUND: Since 1 November 1985 the APF has maintained a policy of limiting the in-service life of emergency and reserve parachutes to a maximum of 25 years where the manufacturer has not imposed a lesser life.

The Parachute Industry Association (PIA) recently determined that a parachute is in effect "recertified" at each periodic inspection for the time the repack is valid.

Based on the PIA interpretation the 1995 Technical Conference reviewed the existing APF policy and recommended a change to put responsibility for determining parachute airworthiness on the person servicing the equipment. The APF Board endorsed the proposal.

APF POLICY:

1. Where a manufacturer publishes an in-service life the manufacturer's requirements must be observed.
2. Where the date of manufacturer is not legible and the equipment has an in-service life limit the equipment must be assumed to be out of date and shall be removed from service.
3. In the absence of an in-service life being imposed by the manufacturer the equipment may remain in service while deemed serviceable. The responsibility for determining the serviceability rests with the person undertaking the inspection. Packers and Riggers must use whatever tests are considered necessary in accessing the condition.

NOTE: Equipment known to have an in-service life-limit is promulgated in the 200 series RACs.

Tests available to Packers to assist in determining serviceability are included as Appendix A to this RAC.

EFFECTIVE DATE: 10 March 1995

AUTHORITY: APF Board of Directors

DISTRIBUTION: All APF Packers  
Australian Gliding Federation  
Australian Aerobatic Club



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## APPENDIX A - TESTS AVAILABLE

Australian Standard Methods of Test for Textiles, Part 2: Physical Tests:

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| AS 2001.2.3 - 1988  | Determination of breaking force and extension of textile fabric.                                 |
| AS 2001.2.4 - 1990  | Determination of bursting pressure of textile fabrics - Hydraulic diaphragm method.              |
| AS 2001.2.7 - 1987  | Determination of breaking force and extension of yarns.  |
| AS 2001.2.8 - 1985  | Determination of tear resistance of woven fabrics by the falling-pendulum (Elmendorf) apparatus. |
| AS 2001.2.10 - 1986 | Determination of the tear resistance of woven textile fabrics by the wing-rip method.            |
| AS 2001.2.19 - 1988 | Determination of bursting force of textile fabrics - ball bursting method.                       |
| AS 2001.2.34 - 1990 | Determination of permeability of fabrics to air.   |

Copies of Australian Standards are available from Standards Australia, National Sales Centre, PO Box 1055 Strathfield, NSW 2135 Telephone (02) 746 4600 Fax (02) 746 3333. Costs vary from \$9 to \$15.50 each.

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| RAC 213 | Parachute canopy fabric tensile strength, non-destructive test method. |
| RAC 214 | Testing of parachute canopy material for acid contamination.           |