



RIGGING ADVISORY CIRCULAR

Issue Date: 18 August 1993

RAC No. 325 Rev. A

SUBJECT: RAVEN RESERVE BIKINI SLIDER

STATUS: RECOMMENDED

IDENTIFICATION: Precision Aerodynamics Raven Reserve canopies manufactured prior to 10 March 1988 designated: Raven (model*)[] with open brackets after the model designation.

*Models include: Raven 1 (181sq ft), Raven 2 (218sq ft), Raven 3 (249sq ft) and Raven 4 (282sq ft).

BACKGROUND: The original Raven Series of canopies went into service in early 1984. All canopies could be used as a main or reserve. Experience with main canopies identified a tendency for some to be slow to develop after snatch force. The "affected" canopies were all within trim and specification and showed no visual or testable variances from "normal" canopies. In the beginning the condition manifested itself only in canopies with several hundred jumps. Later a "snivelling" canopy deployed from a reserve container prompted the manufacturer to recommend that all Raven series canopies produced prior to 10 March 1988 be retrofitted with the "Bikini Slider", a deployment device which retains the physical reefing characteristics of the conventional slider, but has significantly reduced surface area. *The design of the Raven series was completely reworked, and all canopies produced after 10 March 1988 are called Super Raven. The Super Raven canopies are identified on the Data Panel as "Raven (model*) [c]". Specific model* sizes are 120, 135, 150, 181, 218, 249 and 282.*

The APF recently received an incident report where a Raven 2 Reserve took 1000ft to open. This RAC is prompted by this and an earlier similar incident report.

MANUFACTURER ADVISORY: It is recommended that Raven 1, 2, 3 and 4 canopies be fitted with a Bikini Slider P/No P-72101. When retrofitted with a Bikini Slider, the model designation on the data panel is to become "Raven (model) [b]".

COMPLIANCE DATE: Next scheduled inspection.

AUTHORITY: Precision Aerodynamics, Inc.
PO Box 386
US Highway 127 North,
DUNLAP, TN 37327 USA
Phone: 0011-1 (615) 949-4688
Fax: 0015-1 (615) 949-5174