



RIGGING ADVISORY CIRCULAR

Issue Date: 01 May 1996

RAC No. 431 Rev. A

SUBJECT: DUAL HAWK TANDEM MAIN RISER REPLACEMENT

STATUS: MANDATORY

IDENTIFICATION: Strong Enterprises Type VII main risers on Dual Hawk Tandem systems: Part No. 834606 (Master-425 main) and Part No. 834607 (T-520 main).

BACKGROUND: Strong Enterprises state several users have reported middle rings that literally broke (separated from the riser and were lost on opening), and several that were deformed (either elongated or "potato chipped"). Investigation revealed that their vendor (D.J. Assoc.) supplied middle rings which, although dimensionally identical, were machined instead of forged, and therefore not as strong. Visually, the two types may not be reliably distinguished from each other.

Strong Enterprise has mandated the replacement of main risers manufactured between 1 June 1994 and 31 July 1996 and recommends replacement of risers manufactured prior to 1 June 1994.

There have been two serious incidents involving Strong Tandem risers in Australia where the 3-ring geometry may have been a contributing factor which also prompted Strong's riser replacement decision.

STRONG ENTERPRISES
ADVISORY: All Strong Enterprises tandem risers manufactured between 1 June 1994 and 31 July 1995 *will be replaced* (at no charge to the owners) with new risers utilising forged rings. The replacement risers will be easily identified by their larger heavy-duty rings (the larger ring is approx. 1.165" (30mm) ID and 0.180" (6 mm) thick) and the label will identify the riser as part no. 834608.

Free replacement riser sets are available from Strong Enterprises upon request as production permits. Canopy serial number must be provided and the original risers must be returned to Strong Enterprises.

Strong Enterprises *recommends* that all other tandem main risers manufactured before March 1996 be replaced with the heavy-ring risers made after 1 March 1996. As an inducement, Strong will offer these new risers at \$90.00 (US) per pair until 1 September 1996.



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Note: Strong require compliance before 1 September 1996 and require the work to be performed by a FAA Senior Parachute Rigger or foreign equivalent and requests all replaced risers be returned to the factory.

APF POLICY: As specified by the manufacturer except that **all** main risers on **all** Strong Tandem equipment must be replaced with new risers from Strong Enterprises utilising forged rings.

Where a main canopy on a Dual Hawk Tandem is replaced due to deterioration, the main risers **must** also be replaced. Where a main canopy other than a Strong Enterprises canopy is installed the risers **must** be the new Strong type.

Replacement of risers must be performed by the holder of at least a Packer "B" rating.

COMPLIANCE DATE: No later than 1 August 1996.

AUTHORITY: Strong: Product Service Bulletin #21 (22 March 1996)
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DISTRIBUTION: All APF Packers
All NZPF Parachute Technicians