



RIGGING ADVISORY CIRCULAR

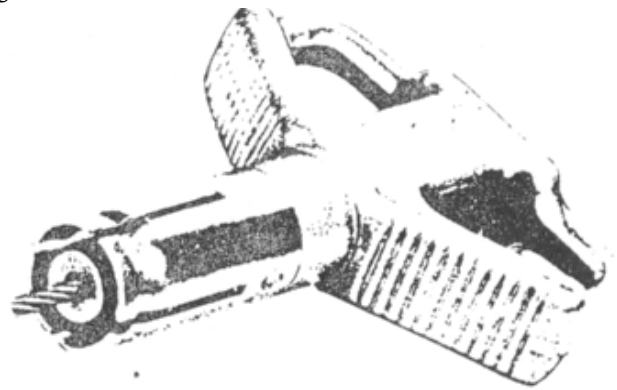
Issue Date: 01 November 1985

RAC No. 501 Rev. A

SUBJECT APF Policy for the USE OF 'Blast Handles' on personal parachutes.

STATUS: Recommended

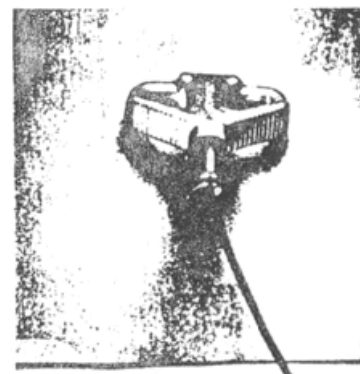
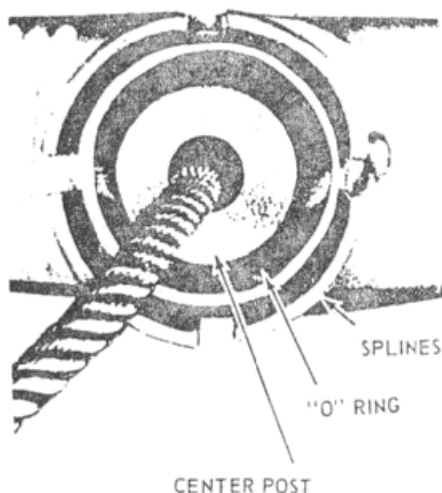
IDENTIFICATION: Part No 5705081
62B4253



BACKGROUND The 'Blast Handle' is correctly identified as 'The Anti-Wind Blast' handle. It was developed as a parachute release handle for manual release on military ejection seat parachutes. It clips directly onto a MS70104 ripcord housing.

The handle is designed to be difficult to remove from the housing (15 - 20 lbs pull).

For sport parachuting use it became necessary to modify the handle by drilling out the centre post to allow it to be pulled at an angle to the housing. The following sectional views show how the housing should be modified for sporting use.



Anti wind blast handle with the center post drilled out.



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While blast handles have not directly caused a fatality they have been cited in a number of fatalities where parachutists seemed unable to locate or pull a blast handle ripcord.

There are ripcord handles available which are easier to identify, easier to grasp and easier to pull from any direction than the blast handle.

APF POLICY

The blast handle post MUST be drilled out for it to be suitable for sport parachuting use.

The use of blast handles is to be discouraged on personal parachutes.

Where possible a blast handle is to be replaced with a Martin Baker or Trapezoidal handle.

EFFECTIVE DATE

Immediately

AUTHORITY

Director (Rigging) Australian Parachute Federation.

DISTRIBUTION

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