



RIGGING ADVISORY CIRCULAR

Issue Date: 01 January 1990

RAC No. 502 Rev. B

<u>SUBJECT</u>	MAXIMUM PULL FORCE FOR RESERVE AND EMERGENCY PARACHUTE ACTIVATION DEVICES (RIPCORDS)
<u>STATUS</u>	Mandatory.
<u>BACKGROUND</u>	<p>In 1978 in response to a parachute fatality the Dept. of Aviation commissioned Dr. Bullock to undertake a study of the pull force capability of female parachutists.</p> <p>It was evident from the study that the existing 22 lb(10kg) maximum pull force was beyond the capability of a significant percentage of female parachutists.</p> <p>When the APF were negotiating with the DOA for approval of the APF Standard No 1 - Emergency Parachutes and Components, it was acknowledged that the maximum pull force for chest reserve parachutes be less than that for either shoulder position.</p> <p>This revision makes minor textual changes to Revision "A". There is no change to the policy.</p>
<u>APF PPOLICY</u>	<p>The maximum force applied by the wearer necessary to activated the deployment sequence of a reserve or emergency parachute shall not exceed 10 kg (22 lbs).</p> <p>In the case of chest type parachute assemblies, the maximum pull force shall not exceed 5.45kg(12lb).</p>
<u>ADDITIONAL INFO</u>	<p>It should be noted that the maximum pull force allowed by this RAC for chest mounted reserve parachutes is lower than that allowed by section 9.3.1.2 of Poynter's "Parachute Manual" (Third edition, 1984).</p>
<u>EFFECTIVE DATE</u>	Immediately
<u>AUTHORITY</u>	Civil Aviation Authority, Airworthiness Section
<u>DISTRIBUTION</u>	RAC holders Cicil Aviation Authority Australian parachute manufacturers and importers