



RIGGING ADVISORY CIRCULAR

Issue Date: 01 November 1985

RAC No. 601 Rev. A

SUBJECT APF POLICY FOR PARACHUTE CANOPY BRIDLE CORDS.
(except for 'free bags').

STATUS Preferred

IDENTIFICATION The bridle is a length of webbing which connects the pilot chute to the canopy or the deployment device.

Bridle cords come in various lengths and strengths to suit particular applications.

They are either (a) tie on type or
(b) loop on type

BACKGROUND Bridle cords in the past have been fabricated using rigging line, tubular nylon webbing, 1" wide flat webbing and wider webbing for free bag deployed reserve canopies.

The Tie on type of bridle has two disadvantages (i) it relies on a rigger or packer to correctly tie a bowline knot, and (ii) a tied bridle will lose up to 55% of its tensile strength because of the knots.

The Loop on type of the bridle has a small loop at one end and a large loop of approx 7" (180 mm) at the other end to suit the majority of pilot chutes available to sport parachuting.

A bridle cord must be long enough to prevent blanketing of the pilot chute by the suspended load (parachutist). On the other hand a bridle which is too long will increase the parachute snatch force. A bridle cord should be sufficient length to allow the pilot chute skirt to be in clean air beyond the turbulence created by the suspended load (parachutist's body).

APF POLICY When a harness and container manufacturer specifies or supplies a particular bridle for use with his product this bridle or an equivalent must be used.

Bridle cords for all applications should be of the loop on type.

Bridle cords should be constructed from a narrow nylon woven webbing (not exceeding 25mm (1") width). Some suitable materials are:

- (a) Tubular webbing ½" or 9/16" to MIL-W-5625.
- (b) Flat webbing 1" to Mil-t-5038 Type IV.
- (c) Flat webbing ½" to MIL-W-4088 Type XIV.

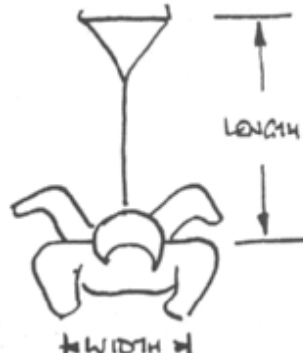


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Bridle cord length should be such that the distance to the pilot chute skirt will be 6 times the diameter (or width) of the suspended body.



Rigging Advisory Circular AC 107A details the requirements for 'free bag' deployed reserve parachutes and the bridle cord requirements.

<u>EFFECTIVE DATE</u>	Immediately
<u>AUTHORITY</u>	Director (Rigging), Australian Parachute Federation.
<u>DISTRIBUTION</u>	ALL APF Packers and Riggers All APF Manual Holders