



AUSTRALIAN PARACHUTE FEDERATION

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EQUIPMENT STANDARD No. APF14062019-E

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Amended 10 October 2023

(Replaces APF RAC 215 Rev A dated 01 December 1991)

SUBJECT: COMPATIBILITY OF COMPONENTS OF PARACHUTE ASSEMBLIES

STATUS: MANDATORY

BACKGROUND:

APF Operational Regulations:

- 7.1.1 requires that a harness/container system and reserve parachute must comply with APF Equipment Standards;
- 7.1.7 requires that a reserve or emergency parachute must not be used unless certified as airworthy;
- 12.5.2 specifies who may declare a parachute airworthy; and additionally
- Where an AAD is fitted it must comply with APF Equipment Standard 081014.

The Operational Regulations do not provide information on how to determine the airworthiness of an assembly comprising of component parts from different manufacturers. Where there is no specific data from parachute component manufacturers for determining compatibility, the APF has resolved to adopt the requirements that apply in the FAA Advisory Circular (AC) 105-2E.

FAA Advisory Circular (AC) 105-2E states at Part 13(c) on page 14: *“The assembly or mating of approved major parachute components from different manufacturers may be made by a certificated, appropriately rated parachute rigger in accordance with the parachute manufacturer’s instructions and without further authorization by the manufacturer....”*

Part 13(a) of the AC defines **major** components as: “...a canopy, a deployment device, a pilot chute and/or drogue, risers, a stowage container, a harness, and an actuation device (ripcord)... Except for an RSL (if installed), it does not include the main canopy, main risers, or components that depart with the main canopy if it is jettisoned.”

The harness/container manufacturer's instructions take precedence when there is a conflict between the harness/container manufacturer and reserve parachute manufacturer.

Note: The harness, reserve ripcord, reserve freebag and reserve pilot chute are all components of a manufacturer's specific TSO. If replacement parts are to be installed, original manufacturer TSO components are to be used.

Exception: A Reserve ripcord may be interchanged with another manufacturer's TSO reserve ripcord provided the replacement reserve ripcord is manufactured to the same specifications as the original ripcord.

APF POLICY:

The assembly or mating of major parachute components from different manufacturers must be made by a Packer 'A' or Rigger. Each component of the resulting assembly must function properly and must not interfere with the operation of other components. Any questions about the strength, operation or compatibility must be resolved by the Packer 'A' or Rigger before the parachute assembly is certified as airworthy and released into service.

COMPLIANCE DATE: 10 October 2023

AUTHORITY: Safety & Training Manager
National Rigging Officer

DISTRIBUTION: Posted on APF Website as Equipment Standard
Email Broadcast to Members