

TECHNICAL & SAFETY COMMITTEE
INTERNATIONAL PARACHUTING COMMISSION (FAI)



Technical & Safety Information Notice No.	3/2008 W.N. 16
Date of Issue	30 May 2008
Subject Matter	<p>VIGIL AAD – <u>Units manufactured prior to 1 August 2006</u></p> <p>The French and Australian Aviation Authorities (government authorities) have banned the use, in their respective countries, of Vigil AADs manufactured prior to 1 August 2006.</p> <p><u>FRANCE</u></p> <p>The French directive (DGAC Emergency AD UF-2008-005) states that the following measures are mandatory –</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 <i>Check the VIGIL AAD manufacture date on the identity card issued by the manufacturer.</i> 2 <i>If this date is equal or before 1st August 2006, remove the VIGIL AAD from the harness container. These triggers are grounded.</i> 3 <i>If this date is after 1 August 2006, check the VIGIL AAD cutter is made of stainless steel and the hole has got a vinyl sleeve. If not, replace the selector and the closing loop. This replacement has to be performed by qualified, approved, personnel.</i> 4 <i>Record these actions on the parachute logbook.</i> <p><u>The French directive states the reason for this directive as – Several cases of non opening or unpredictable opening of reserve containers on the ground have been reported. These events may lead to catastrophic results in case of an opening within the dispatching aircraft or during the parachute jump.</u></p> <p>The Effective Date for compliance with the French directive is 20 May 2008.</p>

AUSTRALIA

The Australian directive (AD/PARA/18 VIGIL Automatic Activation Device 7/2008 TX) requires that –

- 1 *The jumper checks the date of manufacture of the AAD on the manufacturer (AAD) identity card.*
- 2 *If the date is 1st August 2006 or earlier, remove the VIGIL AAD from the container and quarantine the device.*
- 3 *If the date is later than 1 August 2006, check that the VIGIL AAD cutter is made of stainless steel and the hole has got a vinyl sleeve. If not, replace the selector and the closing loop. This replacement must be with parts supplied by AAD, and must be performed by a qualified, approved person.*
- 4 *Record the above actions in the parachute logbook.*

The Effective Date for compliance with the Australian directive is 23 May 2008.

The Australian directive states the background for this directive as –

The DGAC received reports of reserve parachute harness containers equipped with the activation device not opening during a parachute jump and unpredictable on the ground. This situation could lead to a catastrophic result in the case of an opening within the parachuting aircraft or during a parachute jump.

These directives apply to all jumpers, living in or visiting France or Australia. They apply whether the skydiver is a recreational jumper or a competitor in an event.

Please note that these directives are not issued by the Fédération Française de Parachutisme (FFP) or by the Australian Parachute Federation (APF). They are issued by the government authorities and consequently bear the weight of law.

Authorities	<p>Direction Général de l'Aviation Civile (DGAC) - French Aviation Authority. See - DGAC Emergency AD UF-2008-005 http://www.aviation-civile.gouv.fr.htm</p> <p>Civil Aviation Safety Authority, Commonwealth of Australia See - AD/PARA/18 – 7/2008 TX http://www.casa.gov.au/airworth/airwd/ADfiles/equip/para/PARA-018.PDF</p> <p>AAD nv/sa Advanced Aerospace Designs 193, Blvd A. Reyers, 1030 Brussels, Belgium. Tel. +32 (0) 732 6552 info@vigil.aero www.vigil.aero</p>
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The Information Notices may result from:-

- 1 An incident or experience in the field being reported.*
- 2 A directive or notice issued by an aviation or government authority concerning parachuting operations or parachuting equipment.*
- 3 The issue of a notice by a manufacturer or by a National Parachuting Organisation. In the case of equipment being the subject of the bulletin the reader is advised to check with the manufacturer regarding the current status or position of that equipment.*

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31 May 2008.**