

**TECHNICAL & SAFETY COMMITTEE**  
**INTERNATIONAL PARACHUTING COMMISSION (FAI)**



<b>Technical &amp; Safety Information Notice No.</b>	5/2008 <span style="float: right;">W.N. 18</span>
<b>Date of Issue</b>	18 July 2008
<b>Subject Matter</b>	<p><b>Information Notice No. 17, dated 14 July, with details of an update regarding the Vigil AAD, contained an error in relation to the Vigil restriction by the Australian Parachute Federation (APF).</b></p> <p><b>This Information Notice corrects that error and correctly states the current position.</b></p> <p><b>Information Notice 17 was sent to Technical &amp; Safety Officers of parachuting association and federations, but it was NOT posted on the FAI web site. It will NOT appear on the FAI web site. This present IN, 18, will be posted on the site.</b></p> <p><b>I apologise to Paul Osborne and to the APF for any embarrassment caused by a misreading and a misquoting of their notice and the APF position re Vigil AAD. The error was unintentional.</b></p> <p><b>I gratefully acknowledge the help and assistance of Kim Hardwick, APF Technical Officer; Paul Osborne, APF Director Safety; Graeme Windsor, President IPC; Trudy Kemp, BPA Assistant to NCSO/TO and John Hitchen, BPA Joint NTSO/TO, for their clarification of the position.</b></p> <p><i>Liam McNulty</i> 18 July2008</p>

**VIGIL AAD - Update on position re VIGIL AAD  
is as follows:-**

**AUSTRALIA**

The Australian directive, (AD/PARA/18 VIGIL Automatic Activation Device 7/2008 TX) has been withdrawn by the Australian Civil Aviation Safety Authority.

**Information Notice 4/2008, W.N. 17, incorrectly stated that the APF notice of 13 June 2008, issued by Mr Paul Osborne, Director Safety, banned ALL Vigil AADs, not just those manufactured prior to 1 August 2008.**

**This was incorrect and arose from an incomplete reading of the text of the APF notice and the referenced Op. Reg. 6.1.14 quoted in the notice.**

**The situation with APF is that no Vigil AAD may be used by freefall students (excluding Tandem). There is no specification as to which type of Vigil or any reference to date of manufacture.**

**Paul Osborne specifically states: - *I have withdrawn approval for the use of Vigils in student equipment. Experienced jumpers can make their own informed decision as to their use after reading all the information available.***

**United Kingdom**

**Safety Notice – Notice 1/08, dated 29 May 2008.**

**This notice, signed by Paul Applegate, Chairman Riggers' Committee, states:-**

*A number of problems have been found, both in the UK and overseas with regard to the cutters on VIGIL AADs. Because of these problems all reserve parachute harness containers equipped with VIGIL AADs (manufactured by Advanced Aerospace Designs) are grounded until the following has taken place:*

*Check the AAD manufacture date on the manufacturer identity card. If the date is 1 August 2006 or earlier, remove the VIGIL AAD and do not refit to any container.*

*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. The replacement must be with parts supplied by Advanced Aerospace Designs, and must be fitted by suitably qualified riggers.*

	<p><b>Safety Information – Info 1/08, dated 06 June 2008</b>  <b>This notice, signed by Paul Applegate, Chairman Riggers’ Committee, states:-</b>  <i>Following on from BPA Safety Notice 1/08 grounding VIGIL AADs manufactured prior to August 2006. At the Riggers’ Committee meeting of the 6 June 2008 it was decided that with immediate effect all VIGIL AADs must be fitted with Type 3 cutters</i>  <i>VIGIL units with serial numbers lower than 8000 may have either Type 1 or Type 2 cutters and these need to be replaced immediately by the manufacturer or their dealer.</i>  <i>The reserve packing card must be annotated to indicate that the Type 3 cutter has been fitted.</i></p> <p>(Photographs showing the three types of cutters are on the BPA Safety Information – Info 1/08 notice).</p> <p><b>Both these notices, Safety Information, Info 1/08, and Safety Notice, Notice 1/08, can be viewed on the BPA web site, <a href="http://www.bpa.org.uk">www.bpa.org.uk</a>, by clicking on the Stay Safe menu.</b></p> <p><b><u>FRANCE</u></b>  <b>The French directive (DGAC Emergency AD UF-2008-005) is still in place.</b>  <b><i>This Government Agency directive bans the use of VIGIL AADs manufactured prior to 1 August 2006.</i></b></p>
<p><b>Authorities</b></p>	<p><b>AAD nv/sa Advanced Aerospace Designs</b>  <b>193, Blvd A. Reyers, 1030 Brussels, Belgium.</b>  <b>Tel. +32 (0) 732 6552</b>  <a href="mailto:info@vigil.aero">info@vigil.aero</a>  <a href="http://www.vigil.aero">www.vigil.aero</a></p> <p><b>Australian Parachute Federation, PO Box 144, Deakin West, ACT 2600, Australia</b>  <b>Paul Osborne, Director Safety, <a href="mailto:paul_osborne@austarnet.com.au">paul_osborne@austarnet.com.au</a></b></p> <p><b>British Parachute Association (BPA), 5 Wharf Way, Glen Parva, Leicester, UK LE2 9TF</b>  <b>Tel. +44 (0) 116 2785271</b>  <a href="mailto:skydive@bpa.org.uk">skydive@bpa.org.uk</a>  <a href="http://www.bpa.org.uk">www.bpa.org.uk</a></p> <p><b>Civil Aviation Safety Authority, Commonwealth of Australia</b></p> <p><b>Direction Général de l’Aviation Civile (DGAC) - French Aviation Authority. See - DGAC Emergency AD UF-2008-005</b>  <a href="http://www.aviation-civile.gouv.fr.htm">http://www.aviation-civile.gouv.fr.htm</a></p>

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- 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.**

**Technical & Safety Committee of IPC, IPC and FAI accept no liability for the use or misuse of any information contained in this Information Notice. The reader assumes all liability.**

**The Technical & Safety Committee, International Parachuting Commission, can be contacted on e-mail - [lmcnulty@skydiveireland.ie](mailto:lmcnulty@skydiveireland.ie)**

**Liam McNulty, Technical & Safety Committee, International Parachuting Commission.  
18 July 2008.**