



SERVICE BULLETIN

Date : March 23, 2011 Service Bulletin# PSSB0003 #Pages 2
Subject : Aviacom Argus AAD installation approval in Parachute Systems products
Status : MANDATORY
Identification : Vortex, Vortex 2, Student Vortex 2, Condor Military Vortex2

BACKGROUND : Over the past few years, there have been documented reports from the field of Argus AAD firings which failed to fully cut the reserve closure loops. Aviacom, the manufacturer was contacted in concern to these incidents. They have failed to identify the cause of the problem and have not come forward with a solution to this ongoing problem.

The cutter is positioned at the base of our reserve container below the free bag, failure of the cutter to fully sever the loop will result in a hesitation at low altitude and with no ripcord pull by the jumper will result in a fatality. With the cutter situated above the reserve pilot chute as in a lot of rigs out there it makes things worse as it may interfere or prevent manual activation of the reserve parachute system.

There is a potentially more serious safety issue with a partially cut loop on later jumps as the reserve could activate as the jumper is preparing to exit the aircraft or at anytime in freefall with other jumpers above him/ her.

In light of the seriousness of the aforementioned potential scenarios, Parachute Systems is hereby withdrawing approval of the installation of The Aviacom Argus AAD in any and all of their harness/ container systems. This action will remain in affect until such time as Aviacom has identified the root cause of the problem and has developed a proven and tested solution to resolve it to our satisfaction and until further notice.

14 CFR Part 65.129 (e) states that “ No certificated parachute rigger may Pack, maintain, or alter a parachute in any manner that deviates from the procedures approved by the administrator or the manufacturer of the parachute.” Parachute Systems no longer approves any procedure to install the Argus AAD in Parachute Systems products, and hereby rescinds any prior approved procedures to do so. Because of the this cancellation of the approval of the installation of the Argus AAD in Parachute Systems products, it could now be in violation of 14 CFR Part 65.129 (e) if a certificated parachute rigger were to pack a Parachute Systems harness/ container system with an Argus AAD installed. It could also be a violation of 14 CFR Part 65.129 (b) , if , because of the installation of an Argus AAD , a parachute were to be deemed by the FAA to not be safe for emergency use.

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PARACHUTE SYSTEMS SERVICE BULLETIN

SERVICE BULLETIN : All users of an Aviacom Argus equipped Parachute Systems harness /container system should remove the Argus AAD from their system, prior to making ANY further jumps with the system.

COMPLIANCE DATE : March 23, 2011

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