



# New Zealand Parachute Industry Association

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## Parachute Equipment Safety Directive

<b>Technical &amp; Safety Bulletin No.</b>	1/2011
<b>Date of Issue</b>	24 March 2011
<b>Subject Matter</b>	ARGUS ADD approval withdrawal
<b>Origin for material/bulletin</b>	Multiple manufacturers Service Bulletins, Field activations.
<b>Area of Concern</b>	Failure of the AAD cutter in the field
<b>Compliance</b>	Mandatory
<b>Effective Date</b>	24 March 2011
<b>Classification</b>	Primary

**Technical and Safety Directives are issued by the NZPIA under Civil Aviation Rule 105.103 (2).**

### **This directive results from:-**

1. **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.

If 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.

2. The number of equipment manufacturers that have withdrawn the approval for the ARGUS ADD manufactured by Aviacom to be fitted to their respected containers.



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In light of the seriousness of the aforementioned potential scenarios, The New Zealand Parachute Industry Association Ltd is hereby withdrawing approval of the installation of The Aviacom Argus AAD in any and all harness/ container systems. This action will remain in effect 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.

### **Safety Directive: Mandatory**

The Aviacom Argus AAD is no longer approved in any harness container for use in New Zealand.

This actions will remain in force until further notice.

**COMPLIANCE DATE: March 24, 2011**

