



APF TECHNICAL DIRECTIVE No. APF TD01/2011 Argus AAD
Issued 28 MARCH 2011
(This TD supersedes APF TD 05/2010)

Issue Date: 28/03/2011

Subject: Continued use of the Aviacom Argus AAD in parachuting equipment used by APF members.

Background:

Over the past three years, and particularly in the last several months, there have been documented reports from the field of Argus AAD firings where there was a failure to cut the reserve locking loop. Aviacom, the manufacturer of the Argus AAD, has been contacted concerning some of these incidents and, to our knowledge, Aviacom has not yet identified the root cause of the problem, nor has Aviacom suggested a solution.

With many container designs, this failure mode may interfere with or prevent manual activation of the reserve parachute system. When the AAD cutter is located ABOVE the reserve pilot chute, as it is in many harness and container systems, if the cutter fails to sever the loop, pulling the reserve ripcord may not be sufficient to fully open the reserve container and may result in a fatality.

Based upon a field report stating that a pilot chute came out unexpectedly on the ground, there is a second potentially serious safety issue in that a partially cut loop could cause an unwanted reserve deployment on a later jump. If such a deployment were to occur while floating, during exit, or while others were in freefall above the jumper experiencing the unexpected deployment, the consequences could be grave and could result in more than one jumper, or a plane load of jumpers, a pilot and even persons on the ground being seriously injured or killed.

In light of the seriousness of the aforementioned potential scenarios, under the powers of APF Operational Regulation 15.9, the Director of Rigging has grounded the use of the Argus AAD in all parachuting equipment used by members of the APF.

This Technical Directive will remain in effect until such time as Aviacom has identified the root cause of the cutter failure mode and has developed a proven and tested solution to resolve it to our satisfaction and until further notice.

Recipients of this document should take note of, and comply with, the following: the Australian Parachute Federation's Operational Regulations declared at *Part 14 – Records: Logs, Incident Reports and Packing Cards:*

14.4.2 Emergency Parachute Packing Requirements

- (b) *A Reserve or Emergency parachute must not be certified as airworthy except by a "Packer "A" who has packed or directly supervised the packing and has assured him/herself that:*
- (ii) *All mandatory requirements of Service Bulletins, APF Equipment Standards and any Airworthiness Directives have been complied with.*

Action:

APF TD 05/2010 is rescinded.

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Compliance:

Effective immediately.

Authority:

APF Director Rigging
APF Management Committee

Distribution:

Through APF Technical Directive system
APF Members
APF Clubs