

PARACHUTES DE  
FRANCE SA  
2 rue Denis Papin  
Jouy le Moutier  
95031 Cergy Pontoise

**SAFETY BULLETIN  
LEVEL MANDATORY**

N°1/2003  
Date: 18/07/03  
Pages 1/2

Tél 33 1 34 32 77 77 Fax 33 1 34 32 73 17

**CONCERNED EQUIPEMENTS:**

<u>PART NUMBER</u>	<u>DESIGNATION</u>	<u>FIRST OF CONCERNED FABRICATION BATCHES</u>
P2010112000	Main ripcord Handle ATOM 35 Mil. & Evolution D.Version	from OF 175201
P2010142000	Reserve ripcord handle CAMPUS 1	from OF 174952
P2010142100	Reserve ripcord handle CAMPUS/LOR 2	from OF 181512
P2010143000	Reserve ripcord handle TANDEM (Atom & galaxy)	from OF 146024
P1010143000	Reserve ripcord handle SMM 740-2	from OF 139301
P1010143600	Textile hook Reserve ripcord handle SMM (red)	from OF 152338
P1010143601	Textile hook Reserve ripcord handle SMM (yellow)	from OF 162426
P1010143602	Textile hook Reserve ripcord handle / PBO	from OF 172942
P2010107500	Reserve ripcord Flexpack	from OF 146357

**REPORT:**

Some breaking of locking pins have been reported to the manufacturer Capewell wich have issued a mandatory Service Bulletin for manufacturing and in-the-field further tests.

**ANALYSIS:**

Manufacturer of pins - Capewell - have identified a period of its production which need a testing procedure to ensure safety (28th November 2001 to 15th July 2003). Parachutes de France have ensure the tracking of its products manufactured with those concerned pins and identified the product listed in this Safety Bulletin.

**ACTIONS:**

Check the identification label of the ripcord handles of Parachute de France's equipments:  
- if the part number is include in the previous list, check the number of batch (identified OF:XXXXXX).  
If this OF number is egal or superior to the number listed: **MANDATORY APPLY the attached Capewell's service Bulletin Number CW03-01**

**SAFETY MEASURE  
MANDATORY**

All concerned equipments listed in this S.B. must be grounded  
until application of attached Capewell Manufacturer Product Service Bulletin  
Number CW03-01

PARACHUTES DE  
FRANCE SA  
2 rue Denis Papin  
Jouy le Moutier  
95031 Cergy Pontoise

## BULLETIN DE SECURITE

**NIVEAU: OBLIGATOIRE**

N°1/2003  
Date: 18/07/03  
Pages 2/2

Tél 33 1 34 32 77 77 Fax 33 1 34 32 73 17

### EQUIPEMENTS CONCERNES:

<u>REFERENCE</u>	<u>DESIGNATION</u>	<u>PREMIER LOT DE FABRICATION CONCERNES</u>
P2010112000	Poignée Principale ATOM 35 Mil. & Evolution . Version D	à partir de l'OF 175201
P2010142000	Poignée Reserve CAMPUS 1 _____	à partir de l'OF 174952
P2010142100	Poignée Reserve CAMPUS/LOR 2 _____	à partir de l'OF 181512
P2010143000	Poignée Reserve TANDEM _____	à partir de l'OF 146024
P1010143000	Poignée Reserve SMM 740-2 _____	à partir de l'OF 139301
P1010143600	Poignée reserve SMM Textile Crochetable rouge _____	à partir de l'OF 152338
P1010143601	Poignée reserve SMM Textile Crochetable jaune _____	à partir de l'OF 162426
P1010143602	Poignée reserve Textile Crochetable jaune / PBO _____	à partir de l'OF 172942
P2010107500	Poignée pour Flexpack _____	à partir de l'OF 146357

### CONSTATIONS:

Des ruptures d'aiguilles de poignées de déclenchement métalliques ont été signalées au fabricant Capewell qui a diffusé un Bulletin Service Obligatoire pour contrôle en service (N° CW03-01).

### ANALYSE:

Les aiguilles potentiellement concernées par l'application du bulletin service du fabricant Capewell ont été produites entre le 28/11/2001 et le 15/07/2003. La tracabilité exercée sur les produits Parachutes de France montre la nécessité d'appliquer les consignes de contrôle stipulés sur les poignées de déclenchement listées dans le présent Bulletin de Sécurité.

### ACTIONS:

- Contrôlez l'étiquette d'identification des poignées de déclenchement des équipements Parachutes de France cités dans la liste ci-dessus.
- Si la référence de la poignée est listée ci-dessus, contrôlez le numéro d'Ordre de Fabrication de la poignée ( identifié OF:XXXXXX).
- Si le numéro OF:XXXXXX est égal ou supérieur à celui cité en face de la référence, **APPLIQUEZ OBLIGATOIREMENT LES CONSIGNES DU SERVICE BULLETIN CAPEWELL N° CW03-01 CI-JOINT**

## MESURE DE SECURITE OBLIGATOIRE

Tous les équipements concernés sont interdits de sauts  
jusqu'à l'application du Bulletin Service  
Capewell Number CW03-01 ci-joint

# Manufacturer Product Service Bulletin

## Number CW03-01

**Issue date:** July 15, 2003

**Subject:** Capewell Supplied Pins and Ripcords

**Status:** MANDATORY TEST – This is a one-time TEST. One of the two tests (either TEST 1 or TEST 2) must be performed and marked per test procedure.

**Identification:** All Capewell Supplied Ripcord Pins and/or Ripcords from November 28, 2001 through to July 15, 2003.

**Background:**

Capewell Components LLC has received (3) reports from (3) customers of (4) ripcord pins that broke. All (4) pins were reported to have broken under very low force. All (4) pins are reported to have broken on the blade section of the pin, approximately 1/8" (3 mm) from the shoulder of the pin. A broken pin is pictured below.

Two of these ripcord pins that broke were supplied by Capewell as a completed ripcord assembly. Two of the ripcord pins that broke were supplied as pins to Capewell customers who then assembled the full ripcord. The (4) ripcord pins that broke were delivered to Capewell customers in the first half of 2002.

Capewell has an on-going investigation to determine root cause. No root cause(s) has been determined to date.

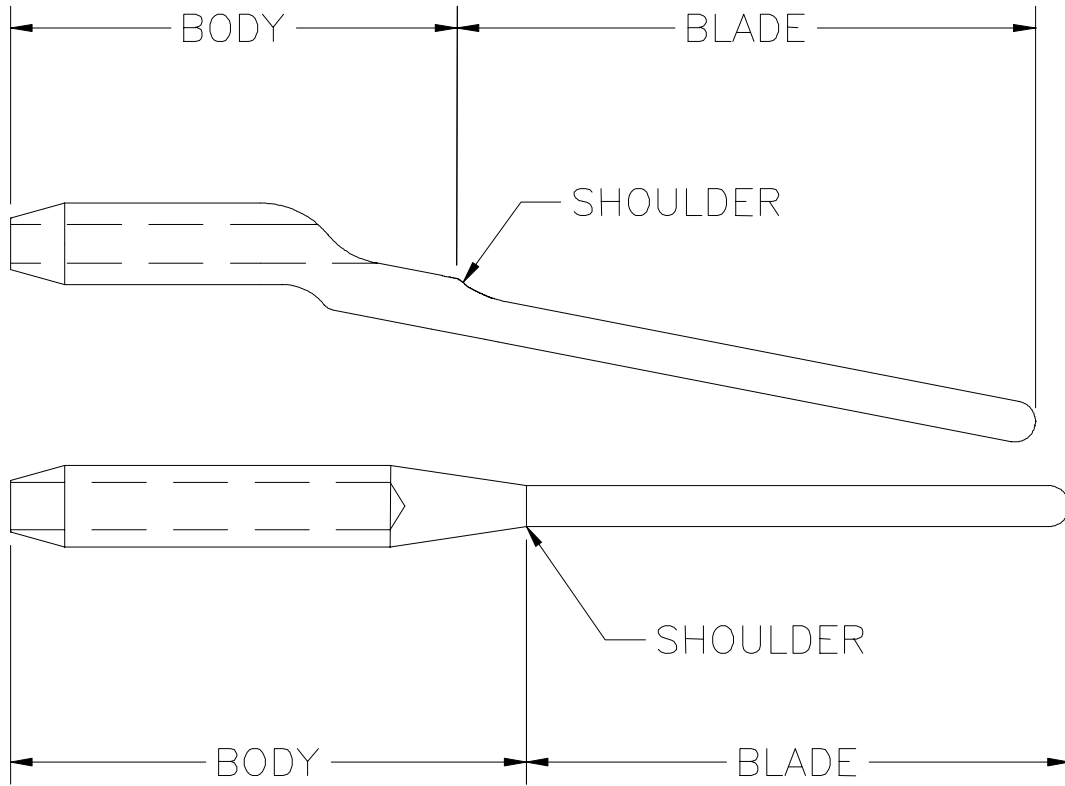
Affected Ripcord Pins are: MS70107 (angled), PS70107 (angled), 61C4304 (angled); 55A6480 (terminal)

**WARNING: A DEFECTIVE PIN COULD CAUSE A PARACHUTE SYSTEM TO MALFUNCTION**



Broken Ripcord Pin

The figure below is provided for clarity to all procedural instructions.



## **ACTIONS:**

# **TEST 1 RIPCORD PIN FIELD TEST**

## **TEST PURPOSE:**

The purpose of this test is to make a field determination as to whether the ripcord pin(s) of a packed parachute assembly are defective.

## **TEST STATUS:**

**MANDATORY TEST** – this test must be done prior to the next use of the parachute system

## **AUTHORIZED REPAIRMAN:**

FAA Senior or Master parachute rigger or foreign equivalent.

## **EQUIPMENT REQUIRED:**

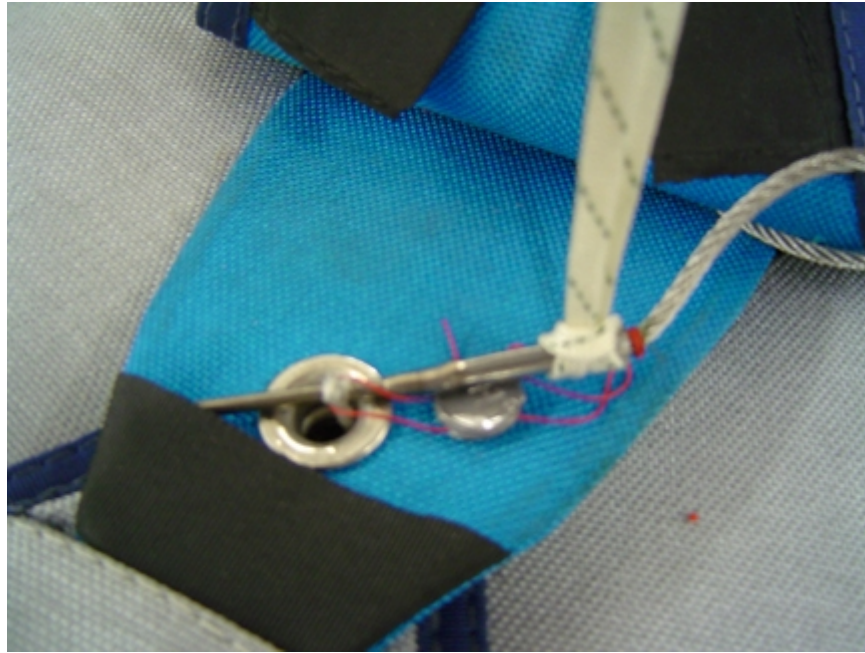
- 1 ea Calibrated spring scale with a minimum 20 lbs. (9kg) capacity.
- 1 ea Type 2A suspension line 18" (45cm) long.
- 1 ea Indelible felt marker

## **COMMENT:**

This test allows the rigger in the field to make a preliminary determination as to whether the ripcord pin(s) of a packed parachute are defective and prone to break under very low force. It is not necessary to unpack the parachute to perform this test.

## **PROCEDURE:**

1. Place the parachute on the floor or ground and open the ripcord pin protector flap.
2. Insure the pin interface element (cone, closing loop, etc), which passes through the grommet that holds the pin in the parachute system, is approximately 3/16" (8 mm) from the pin shoulder.
3. Take the suspension line and tie the two ends together with an overhand knot forming a loop.
4. Route the loop around the body of the pin to form a lark's head knot as close to the cable entrance end of the pin body as possible (Fig. 1).
5. Secure the other end of the loop to the spring scale.
6. Apply a load of 15 lbs. (6.8kg) straight up and 90 degrees to the axis of the pin for a period of 3 seconds and then release the load (Fig. 2). Inspect the pin for any deformation or bend. If the pin is straight, continue with step 7 below. If the pin is not straight, as visible without magnification, remove the pin/ripcord from service immediately.
7. Mark the inspected side of the pin with the felt marker to avoid repeatedly testing the same side of the pin.
8. Rotate the pin one-quarter turn and test again as in step 6.
9. Repeat the procedure in step 6 until the pin has been tested in four positions and rotated one-quarter turn in the same direction prior to each test.
10. Remove the suspension line.
11. Upon successful completion of test, ripcord handle will be marked with **CW03-01**.
12. The packing data card must be annotated to show compliance with Capewell Service Bulletin **CW03-01, TEST 1**.
13. If the pin should fail the test by breaking, immediately notify Capewell Components (below) for disposition.



**FIGURE 1**



**FIGURE 2**

## **TEST 2**

### **RIPCORD PIN TEST for REPACK**

#### **TEST PURPOSE:**

The purpose of this test is to determine whether the ripcord pin(s) of a repacked parachute assembly are defective.

#### **TEST STATUS:**

**MANDATORY** – this test must be done prior to the next repack of the parachute system

#### **AUTHORIZED REPAIRMAN:**

FAA Senior or Master parachute rigger or foreign equivalent.

#### **EQUIPMENT REQUIRED:**

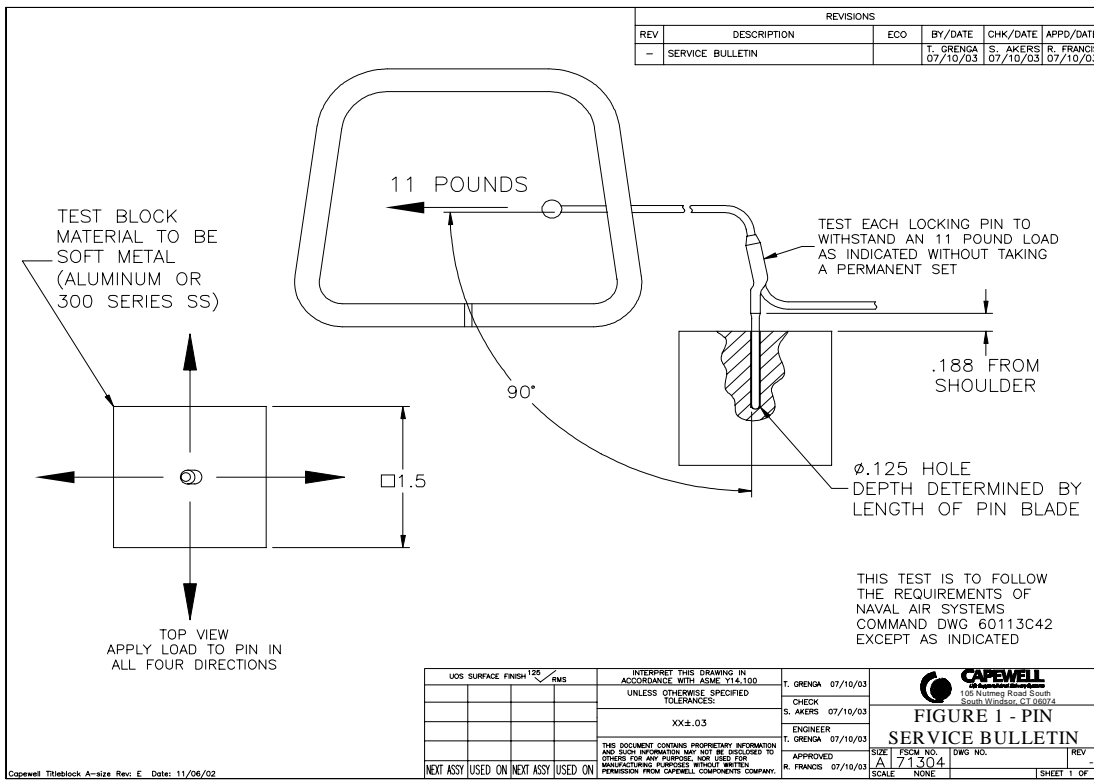
- 1 ea Calibrated spring scale with a minimum 20 lb. (9kg) capacity (or equivalent mechanism)
- 1 ea Aluminum or 300 series stainless steel block
- 1 ea Indelible felt marker

#### **COMMENT:**

This test allows the rigger in the field to make a determination as to whether the ripcord pin(s) of a re-packed parachute are defective and prone to break under very low force.

#### **PROCEDURE:**

1. Place pin in test block per Figure 3 (below). NOTE: The pin block hole may be VERTICAL or HORIZONTAL
2. Apply 11 lb. force 90 degrees perpendicular to the pin blade.
3. Remove pin from block and inspect:
  - For straightness: Pins in excess of .005 (.12 mm) deformation along the blade of the pin should be removed from service.
  - For surface anomalies using 10x magnification. If any surface anomalies (dents, cracks, chips) exist, the pin should be removed from service.
4. Mark the inspected side of the pin with the felt marker to avoid repeatedly testing the same side of the pin
5. Repeat steps 1 through 3, each time rotating the pin 90 degrees in the same direction, until the pin has been tested in 4 directions.
6. Upon successful completion of test, ripcord handle will be marked with **CW03-01**.
7. The packing data card must be annotated to show compliance with Capewell Service Bulletin **CW03-01, TEST 2**.
8. If the pin should fail the test by breaking, immediately notify Capewell Components (below) for disposition.



**FIGURE 3**  
All dimension in inches

Customers/users **who can not conduct TEST 1 OR TEST 2**, should remove pins/ripcords from service and return same to Capewell for testing:

Capewell Components  
 ATTN: Ripcord Pin Test  
 105 Nutmeg Road South  
 South Windsor, CT. 06074  
 USA

**CAPEWELL CONTACT –anyone having questions or needing assistance should contact: Bill Ehler at 860-610-0700x3360, by fax at 860-610-0120, or by e-mail at [bille@capewell.com](mailto:bille@capewell.com)**

**Authority: Bob Francis, Vice-President/General Manager, Capewell Components**  
**Distribution:**

Capewell will distribute this Service Bulletin to:

- All Capewell Customers
- Cognizant U. S. Military organizations
- PIA
- USPA
- FAA

This Service Bulletin will be posted on Capewell’s website ([www.capewell.com](http://www.capewell.com))

Any person or organization that believes further distribution is necessary is urged to do so or to contact Capewell.