



AUSTRALIAN PARACHUTE FEDERATION

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APF SERVICE BULLETIN No APF010201-A

Issued 21st February 2001

SUBJECT:

USE OF YELLOW CUTAWAY CABLES ON STRONG DUAL HAWK TANDEM SYSTEMS

STATUS: OPTIONAL

IDENTIFICATION: All Strong Dual Hawk Tandem systems.

BACKGROUND:

The APF incident reporting system has identified numerous examples of hard cutaways involving the Strong Dual Hawk tandem parachute system. Very few reports of hard pulls involve other brands of tandem equipment, leading the APF to conclude there is a difference in the design or application of the three-ring release technology causing this phenomenon in the Strong Tandem.

Possible causes suggested include: 1) the geometry of the Strong 3-ring release, 2) the use of hardware with a larger cross-section, 3) use of stiffer stainless steel cables, 4) routing of the housings, 5) friction between the cable inner and outer, 6) stainless cable susceptibility to kinking, and 7) the cables being trapped inside the riser tubes during line twists.

The APF commissioned tests of cutaway pull forces comparing stainless steel cables with traditional yellow Lolon cable. Results varied widely with different Strong rigs but in no case were the pull forces higher with the more-flexible Lolon cables. The inclusion of line twists in the tests drastically increased the pull forces required in all cases.

The APF Director Riggers has determined from the results of the tests that there is no detrimental effect from allowing the use of yellow Lolon cutaway cables in Strong Dual Hawk Tandem rigs provided:

1. That Strong Cutaway Cable Housing kit (P/N 918707) is installed in both risers and that
2. The 3-ring riser geometry complies with the standards published by the APF in SB 010801-A.

APF POLICY:

Yellow Lolon cutaway cables may be used in Strong Dual Hawk Tandem rigs provided that:

1. a Strong Cutaway Cable Housing kit (P/N 918707) is installed in both risers and
2. the 3-ring riser geometry complies with the standards published by the APF in SB 010801-A.

AUTHORITY: APF Director Rigging

EFFECTIVE DATE: 21 February 2001

DISTRIBUTION: To all APF Packers and Tandem Masters