

THE UNINSURED ALTITUDE CONNECTION

d/b/a

ALTICO

SERVICE BULLETIN #ASB 032411

DATE: 24 MAR 11

SUBJECT: INSTALLATION OF ARGUS AAD IN THE DOLPHIN
PARACHUTE HARNESS/CONTAINER SYSTEM
MANUFACTURED BY ALTICO

STATUS: MANDATORY

IDENTIFICATION: ALL MODELS OF THE DOLPHIN
HARNESS/CONTAINER SYSTEM: MINI-D, D-1,
D-2, D-3, D-4, D-5, D-6, D-7, AND ALL DOLPHIN
STUDENT SYSTEMS

BACKGROUND: Over the past three years and particularly in the last
several months, there have been documented reports of
Argus AAD firings where there was a failure to cut the
reserve closing loop. Aviacom, the manufacturer of the
Argus, has not yet published any statement as to the root
cause of the problem.

*It is feared that this failure mode may interfere with manual
activation of the reserve parachute, which could likely to
result in a fatality.*

*Another concern is based on report of a pilot chute
coming out unexpectedly on the ground, evidently caused
by a partially cut loop which broke at a later time.*

If this had occurred while preparing to exit an aircraft, or while the jumper was in freefall, the result could have been multiple fatalities from collision of other jumpers with the unexpectedly deploying canopy, or even the destruction of the aircraft, endangering jumpers, the pilot, and persons on the ground.

In light of the seriousness of these potential scenarios, Altico issues this Service Bulletin stating that the installation of an Argus AAD in a Dolphin harness/container system is NOT authorized by Altico. This Service Bulletin will remain in effect until Aviacom has identified the root cause of the cutter failure mode, and has developed a proven solution to solve the problem.

All users of Argus-equipped Dolphin systems should remove the Argus AAD from the systems prior to using them for any further jumps.

COMPLIANCE DATE: 24 MAR 2011

DISTRIBUTION:

- 1) All Altico dealers
- 2) US Parachute Association (PARACHUTIST MAGAZINE)
- 3) Parachute Industry Association
 - a) PIA Technical Committee
 - b) PIA Rigging Committee
- 4) FAA Orlando MIDO

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