



AUSTRALIAN PARACHUTE FEDERATION

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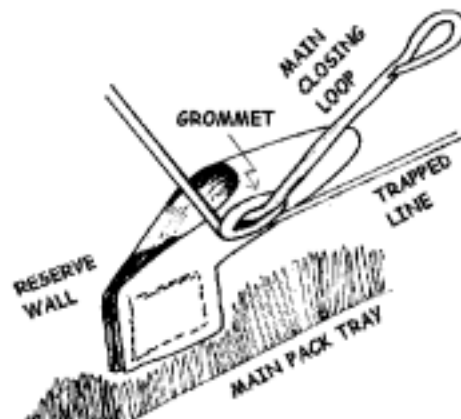
SUBJECT: MAIN CONTAINER CLOSING LOOP GROMMET

STATUS: MANDATORY

IDENTIFICATION: All dual pack container systems that have a closing loop retainer that incorporates a grommet on a webbing extension.

BACKGROUND: There have now been two incidents in Australia one on a Talon and one a Vector (and one in the USA on a Mirage) where a main canopy rigging line has hooked under the edge of the grommet and resulted in a main-in-tow despite being cut away. In both Australian cases the reserve was used and cleared the main.

Parachutes Australia has changed its production on the Talon and issued a Service Bulletin (see PA SB9801) requiring a change to those made prior to the change.



There are a number of other brands of equipment manufactured this way, some with the grommet facing the reserve wall, some with the grommet facing the main bag that could be susceptible to this.

APF POLICY: The APF requires all dual container systems incorporating a grommet on a webbing retainer facing the main bag, in order of preference, to:

1. have the retainer with grommet removed and the loop fixed to a closing flap grommet, or
2. have the retainer turned over or have the grommet removed and installed the other way (facing the reserve), or
3. have the grommet covered by sewing a piece of material around 3 sides of the grommet face.

A Packer "A" may do the work if it can be accomplished by hand tacking. A Rigger must do the work if it requires a sewing machine.

AUTHORITY: APF Director Rigging

COMPLIANCE DATE: 1 December 1998

DISTRIBUTION: through APF SB system