
SAFETY INFORMATION

ACID MESH - FURTHER INFORMATION

1. It has been reported that some jumpers have been advised to 'wash' their reserve canopies prior to Bromocresol testing in order to improve the likelihood of passing the test. Apart from the obvious irresponsibility of the advice itself and the action of carrying it out, jumpers should be warned that washing might encourage an acceleration of the acid decay process on the canopy fabric. Washing may also damage other coatings on the fabric and also affect its porosity. At the moment there is no properly researched evidence to suggest otherwise.
2. The grounding of reserve parachutes may lead to other problems of which jumpers, riggers and instructors should be aware.
 - a) When alternative canopies are substituted for grounded ones there may be a problem of size or type mismatching with containers. Everybody concerned must be reminded that some containers are designed only for specific canopy types and size and that substitution should only be done with expert advice.
 - b) The higher incidence of borrowing of equipment may lead to some jumpers using equipment with which they are unfamiliar. Particular attention should therefore be paid to conversion training and emergency drills.

Tony Knight
Chairman Safety and
Training Committee

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