

## Guidelines for Skydiving from Hot Air Balloons

### **PILOTS AND SKYDIVERS**

Balloonists and Skydivers must comply with all the appropriate CAA and British Skydiving rules as found in the British Skydiving Operations Manual.

It is important that the skydivers are dropped so that they may land on a Parachute Landing Area (PLA) which is a notified Parachute Training Organisation (PTO) site run by a British Skydiving Chief Instructor (CI) holding a CAA Parachuting Permission. Or the Drop Zone is the subject of a previously submitted Skydiving Display Notification applied for by a British Skydiving registered Skydiving Display Team, the Team Leader holding the CAA Parachute Permission.

### **PILOTS**

**Documents:** Check that all skydivers have their reserve parachutes in date. A packing card confirms that the parachute has been packed within the last 6 months and that they are at least 'B' Licence holders.

**Briefing:** With the basket in the upright position the jumpers should rehearse their exit. They should depart from the 'cleanest' side of the basket - away from rip/dump and crown lines. If necessary, rig the balloon to keep all control lines on one side.

**The Jump:** Do not allow jumpers to depart below 3,500 feet AGL (for 'B' Licenced skydivers) or 3,000 feet AGL (for 'C' Licenced skydivers and above). **Note:** terrain height before the drop and inform jumpers.

Do not drop jumpers near large bodies of water/high tension power wires etc. Discuss the exit point with jumpers and make sure everyone is happy with the spot and thought able to land on the DZ.

The Balloon should be in the descent and only one jumper to leave at a time if it is your first flight with skydivers.

Ensure jumper is clear of wires/cables etc. prior to jumping.

### **SKYDIVERS**

**Documents:** Check that your Pilot is authorised to drop skydivers.

**Briefing:** Rehearse your exit and departure order. The easiest way to leave a balloon is to stand on the edge of the basket holding on to the burner frame.

**The Jump:** Check the spot with the Pilot and note the height of the ground below. Ensure that you are not jumping at less than 3,500 feet (for 'B' Licenced skydivers) or 3,000 feet (for 'C' Licenced skydivers and above) above ground level.

Move into the jump position at the Pilots instruction taking care not to snag the lines, fuel hoses or other equipment. Do not leave the basket until cleared to do so by the Pilot.

Do not deploy your parachute immediately after leaving the basket - the slow fall rate may cause the parachute to behave unpredictably. However, you must have fully deployed parachutes by 2,500 feet ('C' Licence skydivers and above), 3,000 feet ('B' Licence skydivers), or 1,500 feet ('C' Licence holders, on displays).