

SECTION 6

EQUIPMENT

1. PARACHUTES - GENERAL

- 1.1. All skydivers intending to make a descent are to be equipped with a minimum of two airworthy parachutes attached to a common harness, except Student Tandem Skydivers who must be attached to a Tandem Instructor. Jumpmasters or instructors not intending to make a skydive must be equipped with a minimum of one airworthy parachute.
- 1.2. Parachutes may only be used if they are manufactured for Skydiving or Military Parachutists, by recognised parachute equipment manufacturers or riggers with the necessary qualifications.
- 1.3. Any modifications to parachute equipment must be carried out by a parachute equipment manufacturer or a rigger with the necessary qualifications. Modifications to equipment, including changes to manufacturer's specifications, used by Student Skydivers, including Tandem equipment, must be approved by the British Skydiving Riggers' Subcommittee and STC before use.
- 1.4. Form 209 complete with relevant drawings should be submitted for modifications to equipment used by Student Skydivers.
- 1.5. Changes to manufacturer's specifications on Tandem equipment must be approved by British Skydiving (via Riggers' Subcommittee and STC).
- 1.6. Skydivers must only use main canopies of a type and size that is within the guidelines on Form 330 (i-iii). In exceptional circumstances, CIs may grant a variation to exceed the stated wing loading at their PTO when the following points have been considered and documented. In such cases Form 332 must be completed by the CI:
 - 1.6.1. Jumpers relevant experience.
 - 1.6.2. Jumpers' currency.
 - 1.6.3. Wing loading to be exceeded by.
 - 1.6.4. Any restrictions to be placed on that jumper.

2. EQUIPMENT USED BY STUDENT SKYDIVERS

All equipment, other than main parachutes used by Student Skydivers must be acceptable to British Skydiving (via Riggers' Subcommittee and STC).

2.1. **AFF & Category System**

- 2.1.1. Main parachutes must be ram-air type and must be large and docile in relation to the skydiver's weight and height. The main and reserve parachutes must be contained in 'piggyback' type containers.
- 2.1.2. Where static line deployment is used, the static line must be continuous from deployment bag to the point of attachment in the aircraft.
- 2.1.3. The following Wing Loading criteria should be applied to main canopies:
 - a. First Jump 'Solo' Student Skydivers - not to exceed 0.8 lbs/sq.ft.
 - b. 'Solo' Student Skydivers having completed at least one 'solo' descent - not to exceed 0.85 lbs/sq.ft.

- 2.1.4. Exceptions to the above are permitted where a Canopy's Manufacturer has published advice that a higher wing loading is suitable. The manufacturer's higher limit may then apply.
- 2.1.5. If a Canopy's Manufacturer has published advice that a lower wing loading is used. The manufacturer's lower limit must be applied.
- 2.1.6. Equipment must be fitted with a reserve static line (RSL) and an automatic activation device (AAD), which must be switched on prior to any descent.
- 2.1.7. Category System freefall equipment must be ripcord deployed, up to at least the completion of Category 6.
- 2.1.8. Accelerated freefall equipment may be either ripcord or throwaway deployed and must be able to be activated from either side, unless the Student Skydiver is making a Level 8 or Consolidation descent.

2.2. Tandem

- 2.2.1. Tandem equipment is not classified as Student Skydiver equipment. However, it is equipment used by Student Skydivers. Therefore, only Tandem equipment acceptable to British Skydiving (via Riggers' Subcommittee and STC) may be used.
- 2.2.2. Tandem equipment must be fitted with an AAD specifically designed for Tandem equipment. If the equipment is not specifically designed to accept an AAD, the initial installation must be carried out by an Advanced Rigger.
- 2.2.3. Tandem equipment (excluding the Student Harness – see 2.2.5. below) must be packed and fully inspected every 6 months (Forms 112A & 112D). Also, the Tandem equipment, excluding the reserve canopy, must be inspected every 100 descents (Forms 112B & 112C).
- 2.2.4. The 100-descent inspection must be carried out by Advanced Packer (Tandem).
- 2.2.5. The 100-descent inspection may take place between 100 and 110 descents.
- 2.2.6. The Student Tandem harness must be inspected monthly and certified as serviceable, by a Tandem Instructor or Advanced Packer (Tandem). (Form 112D).
- 2.2.7. The owner of the Tandem equipment must maintain a Log Card/record of all descents, which must be available for the 100 jump and 6 monthly inspections/repacks (Form 112B).
- 2.2.8. The owner of the Tandem equipment must maintain a log of repairs, modifications and component replacements, which must be available for the 100 jump and 6 monthly inspections/repacks (Form 112E).
- N.B(1). The 100 jump inspection requirements can be found on Form 112C.*
- N.B(2). Forms 112A, 112B, 112C, 112D & 112E must be retained with the Tandem equipment documentation.*
- 2.2.9. Skydivers who are not Tandem Instructors (TI), or TI candidates undergoing evaluation, may not jump Tandem equipment.

3. PERSONAL CLOTHING AND EQUIPMENT

All skydivers will be equipped with suitable clothing and equipment. 'B' Licence skydivers are responsible for the safe condition of personally owned equipment that they may use, and for ensuring that such equipment is serviced, checked and inspected as appropriate.

3.1. Helmets

- 3.1.1. Student skydivers must wear a suitably sturdy open faced, hard protective helmet without a peak.
- 3.1.2. Tandem Students and Licenced skydivers acting as Tandem Students during TI courses or on TI currency jumps, are not required to wear helmets, unless dictated by the Chief Instructor, where a 'French Type' ribbed helmet must be worn.
- 3.1.3. British Skydiving 'A' Licence holders and above may wear hard protective helmets acceptable to the CI/Team Leader.
- 3.1.4. British Skydiving 'C' Licence holders may wear headgear acceptable to the CI/Team Leader.
- 3.1.5. Helmets are to be worn throughout the entire skydive and parachute descent.

3.2. Footwear which is suitable for the planned descent.

3.3. Gloves (if worn) must allow easy operation of emergency equipment.

3.4. All British Skydiving 'A' Licence skydivers and above are required to carry a serviceable knife about their person, or on their equipment. The knife should be readily accessible.

3.5. Wingsuits

Any modifications or repairs to a wingsuit, which may modify, effect or change the operation of the main or reserve system, must be carried out/inspected by a suitably qualified rigger or the wingsuit manufacturer.

4. INSTRUMENTS

- 4.1. Altimeters must be worn by all Student Skydivers (other than Tandem Student Skydivers). Also, altimeters must be worn by British Skydiving Licenced skydivers carrying out planned delayed openings of 15 seconds or more.
- 4.2. The minimum instrument is a serviceable non-sensitive visual read out altimeter, securely mounted in a suitable position.
- 4.3. Instruments should be positioned so as not to interfere with the use of other parts of the equipment.
- 4.4. Skydivers jumping with camera equipment must be equipped with an audible altimeter or equivalent, except for those who are taking part in a Canopy Formation (CF) or water jumps. Tandem and AFF instructors must also be equipped with an audible altimeter or equivalent when carrying out Tandem and /or AFF instructional descents.
- 4.5. AFF and Category System Student Skydivers must be equipped with a radio receiver for at least the first three descents.

5. AUTOMATIC ACTIVATION DEVICES (AADs) AND RESERVE STATIC LINES (RSLs)

British Skydiving 'A' Licence skydivers must use equipment fitted with an RSL and operational AAD, which must be switched on prior to any descent.

N.B.(3) Also see sub-paras 2.1.6. and 2.2.2. above and Section 13 (Displays) para 4.3

6. CAMERAS

- 6.1. Cameras may only be used by British Skydiving 'C' Licence skydivers after inspection and approval of a CI. The skydiver must have received an appropriate briefing, and this should be recorded in their logbook.
- 6.2. Cameras must be securely fitted. Only in cases of emergency should they be jettisoned.
- 6.3. **Camera suit/jacket wings**
- Before using camera suit/jacket wings, the skydiver must have received an appropriate briefing on the associated risks and have demonstrated their emergency procedures wearing camera suit/jacket wings, and these should be recorded in their logbook.

7. AUXILIARY EQUIPMENT

- 7.1. Equipment such as; GPS, flags, smoke brackets etc, may be actively used by British Skydiving 'C' Licence skydivers with permission of the CI/Team Leader. They must be securely fitted to the skydiver. Only in the case of emergency should they be jettisoned.
- 7.2. Skysurfing boards may only be used by SS1 Grade skydivers or above, or skydivers training for SS1 (see Section 2, para 6.8).

8. PARACHUTE PACKING

8.1. Student Equipment.

All Student main parachutes are to be packed under the supervision of a person holding a British Skydiving Packing Certificate for the parachute being packed.

8.2. Main Parachutes

British Skydiving 'B' Licence skydivers and above and holders of JM1 Grade qualification are responsible for the packing of the main parachutes they are jumping.

8.3. Reserve Parachutes

- 8.3.1. Reserve parachutes may only be inspected and packed by current Advanced Packers (AP).
- 8.3.2. Advanced Packer ratings expire on the 31st March each year but may be renewed up to six months after that date. To renew an AP rating the AP must satisfy an Advanced Rigger or Chief Instructor, who is a current AP, that they are current in all aspects of advanced packing relevant to their status. Once an Advanced Packer rating has expired the packer may not exercise the privileges of that rating until the rating is renewed.
- 8.3.2. Reserve Parachute Packers must keep a log of all reserves packed.

N.B.(4) The Training Syllabus for Advanced Packer Courses can be found on Form 169.

N.B.(5) Requirements and Guidelines for Renewing Advanced Packer Ratings may be found on Form 302

- 8.4. Where manufacturers' requirements conflict with those of the British Skydiving, British Skydiving requirements will apply.

- 8.5.** Reserve parachutes that have been packed in a foreign country, in a manner acceptable to the skydiving organisation of that country, may be jumped at a British Skydiving PTO for up to 6 months from the date of that packing. This is provided that the skydiving organisation of that foreign country allows 6 months validity for a reserve repack; otherwise, the foreign country's lesser time will apply. In the case of visiting foreign skydivers the length of time may be up to 12 months, depending on the repack cycles permitted in their country.
- 8.6.** Prior to packing reserve parachutes (excluding Tandem reserve parachutes – see para 8.7. below) they must be inspected and certified as serviceable on the appropriate Record of Inspection/Inspection Check List. (Forms 112, or 113).
- 8.7.** Prior to packing Tandem reserve parachutes, the Tandem system, including main parachute, reserve parachute, container, instructor harness, AAD and drogue, must be inspected and certified as serviceable on the Tandem Record of Inspection/Check List (Form 112A). This form must be retained with the Tandem system documentation.
- 8.8.** Packing/record cards must also be maintained for all reserve parachutes.
- 8.9.** The pull force of a reserve ripcord on piggyback equipment may be test pulled by the user after the reserve has been packed. The user should then sign the Inspection Check List to indicate that they have made the test pull. In all cases, the packer must test pull the reserve ripcord with a scale and sign for the recorded poundage on the Inspection Check List. The maximum acceptable pull force is 22 lbs.
- 8.10. Repack Cycles.**
- Parachutes must be packed at least every 6 calendar months.
- 8.11. Reserve Sealing Thread**
- Only Riggers, Advanced Packers and packers with the appropriately endorsed packing certificate may seal reserves and must use a method acceptable to British Skydiving Riggers Subcommittee. The rigger/packer should use a method of identification on their seal that is identifiable to them. Seal thread must be a thread manufactured to break at no more than 6lbs. The sealing of reserves is optional.

N.B.(6) The acceptable British Skydiving reserve sealing method can be found on Form 215.

9. PACKING CERTIFICATES

Approved Packing Certificates (Main parachutes). Holders of these certificates are certified to assemble, and pack specified parachutes and deployment devices into specific containers. These may be issued or endorsed by Parachute Riggers/Instructors (excluding CSBIs, TBIs or AFFBIs).

10. PACKING RECORDS

- 10.1.** PTOs will maintain a record for each parachute in use as PTO equipment.
- 10.2.** Student Skydivers will maintain a record for their personal parachutes.
- 10.3.** Packing records will log every packing, re-packing and modification to the parachutes to which they relate.
- 10.4.** Records must incorporate the date of packing and signature of the holder of a relevant packing certificate, at each of the stages of packing that requires inspection.