

SECTION 8

SKYDIVING LIMITATIONS

1. GENERAL

Skydiving may only take place under the conditions laid out in the British Skydiving Operations Manual. Variations from, or amendments to the requirements of the Operations Manual must be the subject of formal application to and acceptance by the Council of British Skydiving, usually via the Safety and Training Committee (STC). Because of the need for prompt action in some circumstances the decisions of STC will be considered as having immediate approval of Council unless the Council subsequently rescinds those decisions.

N.B.(1) Articles of Association for the British Skydiving (BPA Ltd) can be downloaded from the British Skydiving web-site: www.britishskydiving.org

N.B.(2) Terms of Reference and Rules of Procedure for STC can be found on Form 160.

2. WIND

2.1. Ground wind speed limits for Skydivers.

2.1.1.	AFF & Category System Student Skydivers	15 Knots
2.1.2.	British Skydiving 'A' Licence Skydivers and above Student Tandem Skydivers	20 Knots

2.2. Suspension and Resumption of Skydiving.

Suspension of skydiving will be ordered for the designations of skydivers concerned after two gusts above the limit have taken place within five minutes. After skydiving has been suspended it will not be resumed for at least thirty minutes during which time no gusts above the limit have occurred.

2.3. Wind Speed and Direction

2.3.1. Every PTO must use an anemometer for measuring ground wind speed.

2.3.2. Further information about wind speed and direction will be obtained using Wind Drift Indicators (WDIs) or meteorological forecasts.

2.3.3. This information will be obtained:

- a. Before skydiving begins.
- b. Following a significant change in wind speed or direction.
- c. Following any break of more than thirty minutes caused by winds in excess of the limits laid down. (see 2.1. above).
- d. After skydivers have failed to land in the intended landing area and a faulty 'spot' or bad canopy control is not suspected.
- e. The Chief Instructor shall determine the exit point for Student Skydivers using information available, this could be wind forecasts, electronic information gained on the day or a WDI. A WDI must be thrown before the start of a skydiving display.

3. CLOUD AND VISIBILITY

3.1. Cloud

Skydivers may not leave the aircraft if, at the point of exit, the ground between the opening point and the intended landing area is not visible.

3.2. Visibility.

The minimum flight visibility must be at least 5km.

4 OPENING HEIGHTS

Minimum canopy opening heights for main parachutes:

4.1.	British Skydiving 'B' Licence skydivers and below	3,000ft AGL
4.2.	British Skydiving 'C' Licence skydivers and above	2,500ft AGL
4.3.	Student Tandem Skydivers	5,000ft AGL
4.4.	British Skydiving 'C' Licence holders, on displays	1,500ft AGL

5. MAXIMUM ALTITUDE

5.1. Skydivers

5.1.1. Normal skydiving will not take place above Flight Level (FL) 120.

5.1.2. Skydiving will only take place between Flight Level 120 and 150 without oxygen, provided that:

- a. Skydivers are not above FL100 for more than 30minutes before leaving the aircraft.
- b. Skydivers are not above FL120 for more than 6 minutes before leaving the aircraft.
- c. The aircraft commander monitors these flight levels and time limits.
- d. If the flight level or time limits are exceeded, the drop will be aborted, and all skydivers will land with the aircraft.

5.2. Pilots

See Section 9 (FLYING), para 5.6. (Flight Crew Oxygen Requirements).

5.3. Members who wish to skydive above FL150 (with oxygen) will need STC and CAA approval and must submit their plans and details of their equipment in advance (via a CI).

6. CUTAWAYS

6.1. British Skydiving 'A' Licence skydivers and above may perform cutaways (at a PTO PLA/DZ) with a cutaway 'rig' designed for the purpose, provided they have CI permission and have been thoroughly drilled in the cutaway procedures.

6.2. Display cutaways will only be performed by British Skydiving 'C' Licence holders when a cutaway 'rig' designed for the purpose is being used.

7. NUMBER OF SKYDIVERS PER PASS

No more than 2 Category System Students Skydivers will be dispatched per pass.

8. WATER JUMPS

Water jumps that are not classified as display jumps may only take place under the following conditions:

- 8.1.** With an Advanced Instructor in overall charge of the jump and who must be present, either as DZ Controller or Jump Master.
- 8.2.** By at least 'B' Licenced skydivers, who have completed a minimum of 10 jumps in the 3 months prior to the jump.
- 8.3.** Skydivers must be equipped with suitable buoyancy aids and must have been briefed on their use.
- 8.4.** The landing area must be a large open body of water of at least 500 metres diameter and must comply with the requirements in Section 7 (PLAs/DZs), paras 3.1. and 3.2.
- 8.5.** The Jump Master must be at least an instructor or a current display team qualified jump master.
- 8.6.** A Wind Drift Indicator (WDI) must be thrown prior to the jump.
- 8.7.** Where there is a minimum of one power boat to each skydiver in the air.
- 8.8.** Even though the water jump is not classified as a display jump, British Skydiving and AR must still be notified using Form 185 at least 28 days in advance.
- 8.9.** Permission of the PLA controlling authority must be obtained in writing and the local police must be informed.

9. NIGHT JUMPS

- 9.1.** British Skydiving 'B' Licence is the minimum qualification to participate in a night descent. (Also see Section 13 - Display Skydiving, para 3.2.5).
- 9.2.** DZ Control must be organised by an Advanced Instructor, who must be present during the entire programme.
- 9.3.** All skydivers are to be briefed on the position of all obstructions adjacent to the PLA.
- 9.4.** The PLA/DZ is to be marked in a standardised manner (see Fig 1 below).
- 9.5.** Any obstructions within the PLA are to be lit.
- 9.6.** The PLA should be indicated to the skydivers by the Jumpmaster from the air prior to exit.
- 9.7.** Torches should be available for use inside the aircraft.
- 9.8.** All skydivers must have at least one light.
- 9.9.** The pilot is to be in communication with local Air Traffic Control (ATC).
- 9.10.** Local Police are to be informed of proposed night descents.
- 9.11.** Notification of night skydiving is to be made in writing at least five working days in advance to Airspace Regulation (AR) (see 9.12. below) and copied to British Skydiving giving the following information:

- 9.11.1 Name, address and telephone number of PTO/display team.
- 9.11.2. Name of CI/Team Leader.
- 9.11.3. Date and time of proposed night skydiving.
- 9.11.4. Name of PLA/DZ together with it's 6 figure grid reference using Ordnance Survey 1:50,000 series.
- 9.11.5. Proposed maximum dropping height.

9.12. Airspace Regulation (AR)
Directorate of Airspace Policy

Contact Details:
Email: arops@caa.co.uk
Tel: 01293 983 880

FIG 1 Standardised Marking of PLAs/DZs for Night Descents

