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BRITISH PARACHUTE ASSOCIATION  
SAFETY INFORMATION

An incident involving the failure of a 3 ring release system has been brought to our notice.

16th February 1988

Failure of small ring attachment webbing on opening.

SUMMARY:

During a normal opening the webbing attaching the small ring of a "mini" 3 ring release system failed. This forced the release cable to pass partially through the grommet on the riser. The jumper's body weight was suspended by his entanglement until landing. Cutaway would not have been possible. The system was a "Vector". The main canopy was a "Jyro" 9-200 sq.ft.

OBSERVATIONS:

It is possible that the 3 ring unit was assembled incorrectly which may have caused this unit to fail however on inspection it was found that the webbing attaching the small ring was longer than is usual. When assembled this allowed the small ring to "butt up" against the next ring rather than overlap as is intended (see diagrams). It is possible that this placed an increased shock load on the webbing and may have caused the failure of the webbing.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

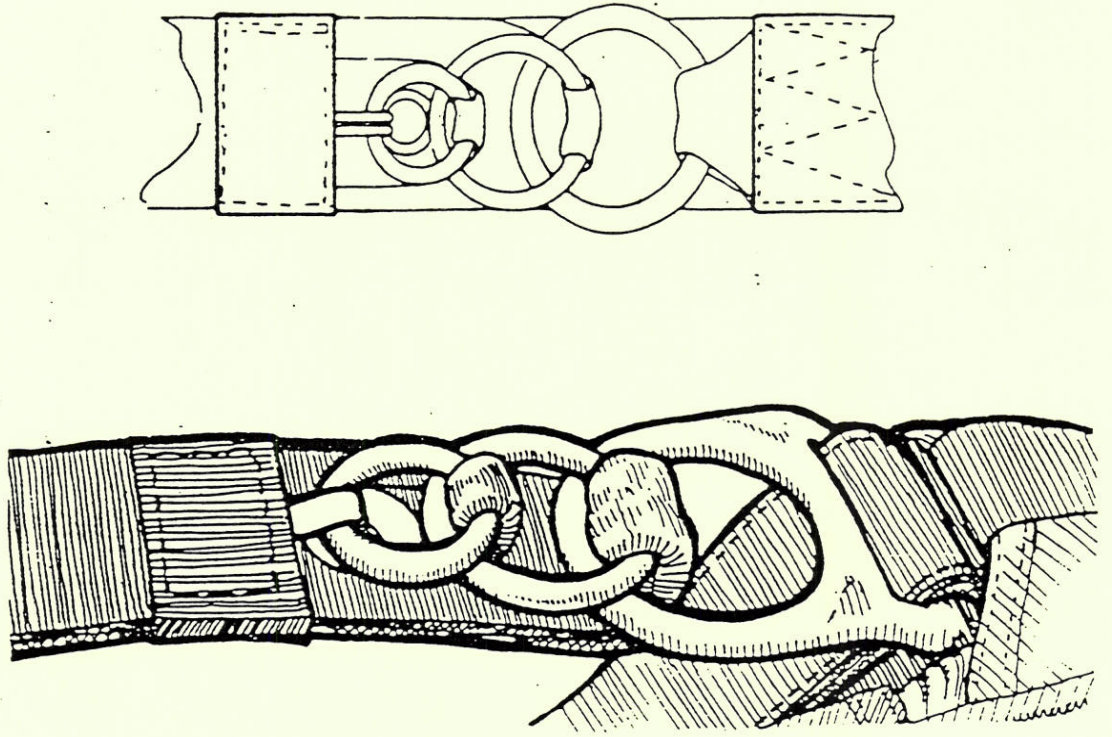
All 3 ring release systems should be checked for correct relationship between the rings (they should all overlap, see diagram). If you are uncertain of the correct fitting consult a Rigger or the manufacturer.

John H. Hitchen  
JOINT NATIONAL COACH & SAFETY OFFICER

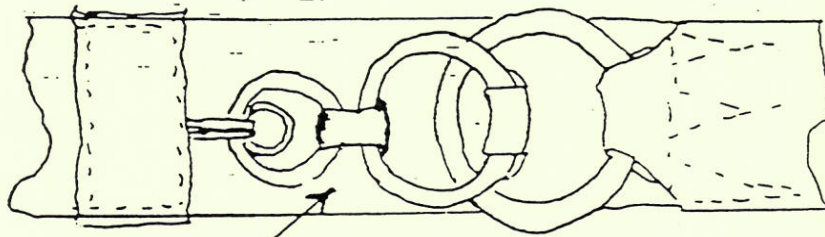
Distribution

Chairman STC  
All CCI's

"3 ring" units correctly assembled, note ring overlap.



Exaggerated view of incorrect webbing length on small ring.



Photograph of failed unit.

