

SAFETY INFORMATION

1/24

RESERVE PACKING TOOL CONTROL

During a recent routine six-month inspection and repack of an Aircare Tandem Reserve container, a two-inch metal pony clamp was found attached to the centre cell top skin of the reserve free bag (see images below).

The clamp was found attached to the centre cell top skin which was rolled up from the warning label at the tail to, and including a small section of, the nose. Otherwise, the reserve looked to have been folded as per the manufacturer's guidelines for a twin speed reserve into an Aircare Tandem System.

The clamp appeared to have been used to control the centre cell roll, which according to the manufacturer's packing manual, states the need to be tight.

Whilst it is unknown whether the reserve canopy would have opened as intended, the adverse effect of this error, could have had catastrophic or even fatal consequences for both the Tandem Instructor and their student, in the event of a tandem emergency, where the use of the tandem reserve canopy was required.



Recommendations:

- 1. Advanced Packers and Riggers are reminded of the importance of effective tool control – ensuring that all tools used in the packing of reserves are accounted for both during and after the reserve packing process.***
- 2. It is strongly recommended that Advanced Packers and Riggers review or implement an adequate system of tool control to ensure errors like this are mitigated against.***

Effective tool control measures may include the use of:

- Shadow boards.
- Shadow bags (if you are mobile)
- Select and count all tools to be used and make a note of how many.
- Ensuring tools that are used on the reserve canopy or free bag, have adequate length tabs for easy identification and where possible a different colour to the reserve canopy.
- Laying out your tools, taking pictures before and after use.
- Where possible, having tools verified by a second party before and after use.
- Account for all your tools after the inspection is completed as per Record of Inspection (ROI) check list. Sport equipment ROI tick box 25, Tandem tick box 17.

Although not directly related to the incident, Advanced Packers and Riggers are also reminded to give consideration to the number of reserve repacks carried out over a one day period and the environment in which you are packing reserve parachutes. The packing of reserve parachutes should be done in a clean, well-lit area, away from any possible contamination and distraction.

Establish personal work limitations and do not put yourself under pressure to complete the task if you are tired. Completing a tandem reserve repack, can be time consuming and special attention should be given to the packing process.

11 March 2024
Jeff Montgomery
Head of Safety, Training and Competitions

Pete Sizer
Chairman Riggers' Subcommittee

Distribution

PTOs
CIs
Advanced Packers
Parachute Riggers



Maintaining the highest safety standards in our sport.