

SAFETY INFORMATION

2/24

FAILURE OF DOUBLE ENDED LOOP

During a recent Incident, a tandem pair experienced a premature deployment of the main canopy a short time after the instructor deployed the drogue. Up to the point of canopy deployment, the exit and freefall were uneventful.

The tandem system in use was a Paratec Next system and the main canopy was an A2 350. Upon inspection of the equipment on the ground, it was noted that the double ended loop had failed (see image 1 below), causing the premature deployment of the main canopy.

Image 1 (Expanded) shows that one end of the loop has either snapped or not been correctly finger trapped and bartacked. It is possible that either the loop is too long or that the bartacking has not been long enough to capture both ends of the finger trapping.

Images 2 and 3 illustrate a double ended loop from the manufacturer.

Following the incident, the PTO rigger examined the loop and instigated a reactive audit of the other loops in use as it did not look like a loop that they had manufactured. They noted that the packers had acquired double ended loop not only from the PTO rigger but also from various other unknown sources.

Recommendations:

- 1. It is recommended that PTOs using Tandem systems with a double ended loop on the drogue riser, conduct an internal audit of all loops installed on the Tandem Systems and any spares to ensure that loops are in a serviceable condition.***
- 2. The audit should be annotated within the SMS documentation for the PTO.***
- 3. Wet conditions on the PLA and freezing temperatures at altitude, may also contribute to wear and tear of loops, therefore regular checks are also recommended.***



Image 1 (Expanded)



Image 2 (Paratec Loop)



Image 3 (Paratec loop side view)

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