

## **TECHNICAL BULLETIN #59**

### **Item #1 Changes To Repack Cycle**

Effective January 1, 2000 a change to the reserve inspection/repack cycle (BSR 2.2) has been approved by the Technical & Safety Committee and the Board of Directors of CSPA.

#### **The cycle has been extended from 120 to 180 days.**

The committee arrived at this decision after reviewing recent information from canopy manufacturers and the Parachute Industry Association. In addition, data from military testing, both in Canada and the USA, has been a factor in this extension. Also taken into consideration was the movement toward a 180 day inspection/repack cycle by many nations world-wide.

During these discussions it was also decided that CSPA Riggers may open a reserve container mid-cycle to replace AAD batteries, then close and re-seal the container, providing the reserve has not been disturbed and the Rigger is comfortable with the process. This action would only be considered if the original inspection and repack was performed by the same Rigger breaking the seal and opening the container. No time extension will be added to the cycle (**the original date on the packing data card will not be extended during performance of this mid-cycle procedure**).

A Rigger other than the original technician involved, for liability considerations, would need to repack the reserve and re-seal the container using their own seal press and symbol. In this case only would the inspection/repack cycle be extended to reflect the later closure.

**Riggers must inform their clients if AAD batteries need to be changed prior to the next reserve inspection/repack.**

Canadian parachutists heading south must be made aware that the repack cycle has not been extended in the USA-it remains at 120 days until proposed changes to the FARs come into effect - which could be in the distant future, knowing the way the FAA has performed in the past.

**Skydivers venturing into the USA could face an expensive pack job if they fail to ensure their reserve repack date falls into the 120 day cycle.**

By extending the inspection/repack cycle Riggers will need to increase their diligence during the inspection process as the increased time span between inspections could mean the parachute assembly has been exposed to additional hazards and/or abnormal conditions. Clients should be made aware that this more extensive inspection process will likely reflect a fee increase for your services.