



CANADIAN SPORT PARACHUTING ASSOCIATION
ASSOCIATION CANADIENNE DU PARACHUTISME SPORTIF

TECHNICAL BULLETIN #83

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Item #1 - Soft Links on Reserve Parachutes

A situation reported by a rigger in the field recently could have ended with dire consequences. A client brought their reserve in for inspection/repack and during the inspection phase it was noticed that soft links were installed incorrectly. The links had only been routed through the risers and line groups once. This rig had been inspected and repacked four times by a rigger— who incidentally said he was not the one who installed them initially—so who was more at fault?

With more manufacturers supplying canopies with soft links it is imperative that riggers are aware of how the various manufacturers instructions tell us how to install them correctly. It should also be noted that manufacturers normally only make soft links for the canopies they build and do not test them on products from another manufacturer. This is especially important when dealing with certificated canopies because it directly affects the airworthiness of the system if untested and unauthorized components are installed.

Performance Designs has a specific instruction sheet on how to install their “Slinks” and it can be found at: <http://www.performancedesigns.com/canopyinfo.asp>

Aerodyne includes instructions on how to install P1487-1 soft links on Smart reserve canopies in the reserve packing manual at: http://www.flyaerodyne.com/download/smart_manual.pdf

Precision Aerodynamics can be contacted at: www.precision.aero

As a footnote, considering most of the instructions currently displayed on the websites of the different manufacturers have been there for some time, all manufacturers now require that the soft links be tacked down after installation and inspection. The terminating tab or ring must not protrude outside the riser. This is quite important on certificated canopies, as they do not get many deployments to help develop a “set” in the links.

Barry McAuley – Chair
Technical & Safety Committee
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