

PRODUCT SERVICE BULLETIN

Issue date: 7 December 2010

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Bulletin number: SB AMMO071210/1

Subject: Substandard loop washers

Status: Advisory

Identification: Loop washers better known as “smiley”. In general used in parachute systems equipped with an electronic AAD.

Background:

This service bulletin has been issued after examining an unidentified letter concerning a disc update issued on November 22, 2010.

According to this update certain discs can break or rip from hole to hole. The problem is known by the disc supplier since 2009. According to the disc supplier at least 400 are still out in the field.

Washer ripped through



Aviacom received multiple reports from the United States (9), Australia (2), Canada (1) and Ireland (1). These broken discs have been found by our dealers.

Due to metal fatigue, the disc can break at an unpredictable moment. A broken disc can break the reserve closing loop and cause an untimely opening of the reserve container at a critical time (e.g. floating and landing). Alternatively the damaged loop and/or washer may obstruct or delay the opening of the reserve container or hamper the reserve deployment.

Service bulletin:

Identification of a washer is not possible due to a missing serial # and D.O.M. The in various forums suggested identification via a change of shine when comparing a good and a bad washer is not proven and opens the door for assumptions.

All parachute systems equipped with an Argus AAD should have their disk checked and replaced after each repack. We highly recommend to replace all smiley washers by stronger steel washers using a figure 8 knot for the loop. Free steel washers will be supplied upon request to all Argus users with mentioning serial number and date of manufacture.



Figure 8 knot



Steel washer

We do remind all packers that a replacement of the reserve closing loop is mandatory after each repack and that a minimum of 5kg pilot chute pressure is maintained. Riggers have to consider knot slippage and loop stretch up to 1 inch (2,5 cm).

Compliance date: At the next repack.

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The distribution list shall include but is not limited to:

- All dealers and owners/customers for whom addresses are on file.
- PIA Technical Committee
- IPC Technical Committee
- All parachuting periodicals
- National Aero Clubs-Parachuting sections