



PARACHUTES AUSTRALIA

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SERVICE BULLETIN No PA SB0901

Issued 26th February 2009

SUBJECT: 3-RING RISER INSPECTION

STATUS: ADVISORY

IDENTIFICATION: All 3-ring risers manufactured by Parachutes Australia

BACKGROUND:

On 18th January 2009, a riser manufactured by Parachutes Australia (PA) released on opening. It was the left riser with an RSL fitted. The reserve was deployed into the trailing main by the RSL resulting in a main reserve entanglement. The risers were fitted to a Talon harness and container system manufactured in June 1999.

During the subsequent investigation carried out by the Australian Parachute Federation (APF) the following points were noted:

- a) It was found that the Type 2A line locking loop had pulled out from under the confluence wrap, releasing the riser.
- b) The locking loop had been attached to the riser by a single bar tack placed perpendicular to the loop.
- c) A load of between 80-100lb would be required to extract the locking loop from the bar tack.
- d) There was no kink in the left cutaway cable to warn of excessive loading.

On 23rd January 2009 the APF issued a Safety Notice and service bulletin requiring an inspection of all 3-ring risers in service. The purpose of this Service Bulletin, PASB0901, is in response to the concerns identified at that time.

MANUFACTURER ADVISORY:

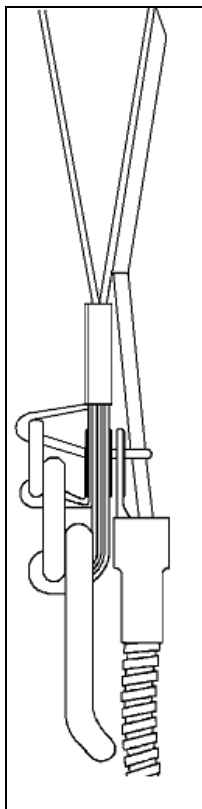
Older versions of PA 3-ring risers have a shorter loop than now in common use. All 3-ring risers manufactured by PA can remain in service provided they meet the following requirements as extracted from the APF Service Bulletin APF010801-C



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While 3-ring risers may be constructed of different materials the following points define the proper criteria for a correctly built 3-ring riser when attached to the harness ring and put under moderate tension.

- The rings should overlap each other and maintain metal to metal contact between each other.
- The rings should be aligned in parallel planes.
- The smallest ring should not be pulled snug against the grommet by the locking loop which should be long enough to give it some play.
- The locking loop should go straight through the riser grommet on its way to the cable housing end fitting.
- It should be checked that NO suspended load is supported by the cable housing and locking loop due to the cable housing being incorrectly positioned in the harness or being too short.

PA manufactured 3- ring risers **not** meeting the requirements of APF Service Bulletin APF010801-C must be sent to PA for correction and return at no charge.

The owners of PA manufactured 3- ring risers that have locking loops shorter than that as detailed in the above mentioned Safety Notice but **do** meet the requirements of APF Service Bulletin APF010801-C that feel uncomfortable about the length of the locking loops can also send them to PA for lengthening and be returned at no charge.

Owners of 3-ring risers not manufactured by PA which do not conform to APF Service Bulletin APF010801-C can send these to PA however will attract a charge.

AUTHORITY: Managing Director Underline Designs Pty Ltd trading as Parachutes Australia.

COMPLIANCE DATE: Immediate

DISTRIBUTION: Subscribers to the APF Service Bulletin Service.