



PARACHUTES AUSTRALIA

22 Bosci Rd , Ingleburn NSW 2565 Australia (P:O Box 969)
Ph: + 61 2 98295355 Fax: +61 2 98291300

SERVICE BULLETIN No PA SB9203

Issued 16 November 1992

SUBJECT: PIGMEE RED HANDLE (RESERVE RIPCORD) PROOF TEST

STATUS: MANDATORY

IDENTIFICATION: All Pigmee model S007, S007(A), S007(B), S007(C) and S007(D) which incorporates the Single Operation System (SOS) to activate the reserve.

BACKGROUND: As part of a periodical inspection of a Pigmee the rigger found the Red Handle to be in poor condition from exposure to the elements, (it had been lying in a field for about a month). The rigger thought it prudent to pull-test the Red Handle to the TSO requirement of 136kg (300lbs) pull test for 3 seconds. The ripcord failed at a loading of between 30 and 40lb when the two cables came away from the red pad. The copper swage had come away and permitted the cables to pull out of the Red Handle.

Although the Red Handle was in poor condition the swage should not be susceptible to deterioration that would reduce its ultimate strength to this degree. The construction method has since been changed but it is not obvious from an external inspection.

The failed Red Handles had two pieces of cable swaged together at the handle end with a copper micropress swage. The cable was secured to the handle by tape passing between the two cables and being secured to the bottom of the red pad with stitching. Later production Red Handles have a single piece of wire rope with an eye formed at the handle end through which the securing tape passes and these are not susceptible to failure and come from the manufacturer indelibly marked with a black cross.

MANUFACTURER ADVISORY: Pigmeees which incorporate the SOS reserve activation system and Red Handle are to be immediately withdrawn from service. The Red Handle is to be tested to 186kg (300lbs) for three seconds, using an appropriate tensile test machine. Alternatively the handle may be returned to the manufacturer for testing.

If the Red Handle passes the test it shall be marked on the back with a cross in black indelible ink (or paint) to indicate it has passed the test and may be returned to service. If the Red Handle fails the test it shall be withdrawn from service.

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

COMPLIANCE DATE: 16 November 1992.

DISTRIBUTION: CASA and subscribers to the APF Service Bulletin service.