



Aerodyne Research LLC
1407 Flightline Blvd, Unit 14
Deland, FL 32724

Service Bulletin SB121817 – Aerodyne Semi-stowless Deployment Bag Replacement Program

Date of Issue: December 18th, 2017

Subject: Exchange of Aerodyne semi-stowless deployment bags supplied for Icon harness & container systems.

Status: Mandatory.

Compliance: Completed by April 30th, 2018.

Authority: Gordon Sellers, President, Aerodyne Research LLC

Identification: All semi-stowless deployment bags, with **side tuck tabs** and magnetic mouth closure, sold with our Icon containers or as a spare part from June 2015 until October 31st, 2017.



This bulletin **does not** affect the semi-stowless deployment bags delivered after Nov. 1st, 2017, which have red stow pockets for the magnetic mouth closure system.



Background:

In 2015, Aerodyne began to offer a semi-stowless deployment bag as an option. In the last year there have been reported irregularities with premature releasing of lines (known as a line dump) where this bag has been in use.

Aerodyne has thousands of Icons in the field for many years with regular deployment bags using rubber stow bands with no known issues regarding line control during deployment.

Based on these reports, Aerodyne has performed additional tests on the design of the semi-stowless bag in different conditions. These conditions accounted for a wide variety of variables such as canopy sizes related to the bag size, types of canopy fabrics, types of lines, opening speeds, and more importantly, a variation of canopy packing techniques that we understand are used in the field.

Through this additional testing we have determined that some of these conditions can exist, causing a premature release of lines from the bag. This uncontrolled deployment of lines may cause variations in opening characteristics, and could lead to lines being caught on the container or jumper.

As a result of continued development of Aerodyne's products, an improved semi-stowless deployment bag has been designed which better addresses these issues. These bags are delivered with all new Icon containers where this option is required.

To increase safety for everyone using the semi-stowless design, Aerodyne wishes to offer every Icon owner to have the latest version of this bag.

Thus, Aerodyne has decided to offer an exchange program and upgrade all the original semi-stowless deployment bags, and remove the first version of bags from further use. This replacement bag and return shipping to you will be at no charge to the customers, and will not distinguish if the bag is in a rig that is sold second hand. Simply put, if it's an Aerodyne bag, Aerodyne will exchange it to the new version free of charge.

Until users have received their new bags and wish to jump their equipment, we recommend that the packing instructions for the semi-stowless bag be noted and followed. We have experienced a variety of packing methods on the semi-stowless bags in the field, and would remind users that free stowing lines in any type of a semi-stowless bag is a technique that requires understanding and attention

Action Required:

In an effort to minimize disruption for our customers, we are in the process of manufacturing the new replacement bags and the practical exchange can start from the second week of January 2018. New semi-stowless deployment bags will be exchanged upon return of the original semi-stowless deployment bag.

To prepare the exchange of these bags and for Aerodyne to manage program customers must register on Aerodyne's website. This can be done as soon as possible.

Actions for customers to take:

- Visit <http://www.flyaerodyne.com/registration> and register your request for exchange. Please note this is important, even if you don't send in the bag straight away.
- You will receive an email acknowledgement of your registration. Please keep this for your records. Please print and include a copy of this document when you return your bag for exchange.
- We will start the exchange process from the second week of January.
- Bags will be manufactured and made available in the order they are requested. The sooner you send your bag in, the earlier it will be replaced. With about 500 bags in 10 different sizes in the field, bags will be manufactured and made available in the order they are requested.
- Bags will only be exchanged upon receipt of old bag.
- If you have no need for a new bag immediately, please wait a while and let your skydiving friends who are active and maybe in a more jumpable climate get their bags first.

Exchange Centers

To aid in the process of distribution, after registration old bags – with a copy of the registration – can be returned to the nearest exchange center to you. Once received we will process a replacement and sent within two weeks

North and South America (USA Canada, Mexico, South America)

Aerodyne Research LLC,
1407 Flightline Blvd, Unit 14, Deland FL 32724

Europe

Aerodyne Research Europe c/o Herman Landsman
Hoofdweg 101, 1795 JC De Cocksdorp, Holland

Australia

Mee Loft c/o Koppel Solomon
84 Park Rd, Woolloongabba, QLD 4102

Rest of World (Africa, Far East)

Aerodyne Research Manufacturing
115 Marshall Drive, Crawdord Factories, Mount Edgecombe, South Africa 4300



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FAQ Related to Service Bulletin SB121817

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1) WHAT IS THE REASON FOR THIS MANDATORY UPGRADE?

With the use of semi-stowless bags, there are variables that affect the controlled deployment of parachute suspension lines, including canopy size selection & materials, line types, packing techniques, etc.

As more of our customers have ordered semi-stowless bags, we have received some non-specific reports of variations in opening characteristics, including harder than expected openings, and now have received a few reports of line snags that have happened on the container while using the semi-stowless bag. This is a new situation we have not seen on the thousands of Icon containers equipped with the standard traditional elastic stow closure.

Based on these reports, Aerodyne has performed additional tests on the design of this semi-stowless bag in different conditions. These conditions accounted for a wide variety of variables such as canopy sizes related to the bag size, types of canopy fabrics, types of lines, opening speeds, and more importantly a variation of canopy packing techniques that we understand are used in the field. Through this additional testing we have determined that conditions can exist causing a premature release of lines from the bag.

As a result, we have developed an improved semi-stowless bag design that better addresses these issues. To improve performance and safety for customers using the original semi-stowless design, Aerodyne is offering the latest version and upgrading all Aerodyne original semi-stowless bags for our customers.

2) HOW DO I KNOW IF MY BAG IS ELIGIBLE FOR THE UPGRADE TO THE NEW BAG?

All semi-stowless deployment bags with side tuck tabs and magnetic mouth closure), sold with our Icon containers or as a spare part from June 2015 until October 31st, 2017 are eligible. Please reference photo below



This upgrade exchange **does not** affect the semi-stowless deployment bags delivered after November 1st, 2017, which you can identify by the red webbing tab stow pockets for the magnetic mouth closure system. Please reference photo below.



3) WHAT ARE THE CHANGES ON THE NEW UPGRADED BAG?

The line stow pocket is now integrated into the bag seams and the side tuck tabs have been removed, resulting in a flatter, tighter line stow pocket. Also, an additional rubber band stow has been added above the mouth of the suspension line stow pocket that provides a more controlled release of the free stowed lines from the pocket.

4) CAN I STILL JUMP MY CURRENT BAG DURING THIS EXCHANGE PERIOD?

Yes, however you **must review and follow** the proper packing procedures for your current bag. Refer to semi-stowless packing instructions.

To review these procedures please click on the link below, or copy and paste this link into your browser.

5) HOW MUCH WILL THIS UPGRADE COST ME?

The only cost involved is shipping the bag to your regional center. Aerodyne will provide the upgraded bag and return shipping at no charge to you.

6) HOW LONG WILL THIS EXCHANGE PROCESS TAKE?

There are many logistics with this exchange, what we ask for you to do is:

- 1) Register the bag that is to be exchanged. We ask that you submit this information as soon as possible.
<http://www.flyaerodyne.com/registration>

- 2) Between now and April 30th, 2018 decide what time works best for you to send in the bag to be exchanged. To facilitate this, we have 4 regional addresses listed below. Please choose the location that is closest to you.

Once we receive the original bag, we will ship your upgraded bag as soon as it is available. We will have a built-up stock of various sizes to start the exchange program. Based on the return rate and size variation, and noting that we expect about 500 bags in 10 different sizes, it could take up to a few weeks to replace your bag. Please be assured we will do our best to replace all bags in a timely fashion.

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7) CAN I PROCESS THIS EXCHANGE THROUGH MY DEALER?

Yes. Contact your dealer, and coordinate the registration and exchange of your bag with them.

8) CAN I EXCHANGE MY SEMI-STOWLESS BAG FOR THE STANDARD ELASTIC STOWED BAG?

Yes. Please follow the same procedures for registering your current bag and make the selection to receive the standard elastic stowed bag instead of the upgraded semi-stowless bag.

9) I HAVE THE SEMI-STOWLESS BAG WITH THE RED WEBBING TAB STOW POCKET SYSTEM, WHY IS THIS BAG NOT BEING UPGRADED?

This particular bag already incorporates a flatter, tighter semi-stowless pocket and the removed side tuck tabs in the design. This provides better management of the stowed lines during the deployment sequence.

10) WILL THERE BE DIFFERENT PACKING PROCEDURES FOR THE UPGRADED BAG?

Yes. Please follow and implement the packing procedure that will be included with the new bag.

11) WHAT IF I DON'T WANT TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS EXCHANGE PROGRAM?

Please do. This is a mandatory service bulletin.