



PIA

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Paratec Statement about the use of AADs in Next Harness Container Systems

Date 30.03.2011

Background

Increasing incidents, even mortal ones, through incomplete cut loops with Argus AAD

Statement

Those so called electronic AADs such as Cypres, Vigil or Argus resemble non TSOable devices, which are being installed solely by the wish of the owner to meet his request for additional safety. There is no legal compulsion by Civil Aviation Administrations to operate Personal Parachute Systems in conjunction with AADs.

Furthermore there is no existing Minimum Performance Standard, which is binding for any AAD manufacturer in the design, production or testing of a AAD. It therefore resembles a typical commercial electronic consumer product. AADs are not a part of the TSO qualification tests laid down in AS 8015B or in its successor the TS 135, though they all interfere with the tested and certified manual activation, by cutting the loop inside the reserve container. This fact can lead to a constraint or even a obstruction of the tested and certified manual activation method !

Because of the above explained situation, Paratec GmbH has never allowed nor denied the use of AADs in its Next rigs. The compatibility has to be declared by the individual AAD manufacturer upon tests he conducts with our product to determine compatibility in every aspect of the matter. A good example is Airtec GmbH who has issued this compatibility in a letter to Paratec, taking full responsibility of the interaction of its product in combination with our Next rigs, providing that it is installed as Airtec has determined it.

For exactly this reason Paratec followed a decision by Airtec in 2007, where Airtec decided to move the cutter back in a position above the reserve pilot chute.

Paratec hereby strongly advises all owners of Next Harness / Container Systems of the fact that we cannot take responsibility of the interaction of any

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AAD with our reserve container, generated by the means of such AAD by cutting the closing loop inside the container.

This responsibility lies solely with the AAD manufacturer, who has to provide proof to his customer, that his product does not negatively affect the tested and certified functions of a Next reserve container.

Valid alone are therefor the installation instructions and the owners manual of the AAD manufacturer.

Paratec not being obligated to this but still cares about it's customers we strongly suggest that all Next owners make themselves knowledgable and verify the documentation of the AAD of their choice that all above mentioned criteria are present in writing and we suggest to only choose products of this kind where the manufacturer is able to provide these documents.

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