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Advanced Aerospace Designs

PRODUCT INFORMATION BULLETIN

Issue Date : March 23, 2017

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Subject : VIGIL CUTTER DEFORMATION

Identification :

Cutters sleeves that show deformations or depressions around the cutter hole and clear, abnormal indentation marks caused by the reserve closing loop.

Background :

We recently have found a few cutters in the field that showed clear indentation marks around or near the reserve-loop hole on the cutter sleeve.

Upon further investigation and after conducting numerous tests during reserve container closures, we have discovered that these indentations are caused when the reserve loop has been routed incorrectly when using a skydiving harness/container where the AAD cutter is placed on top of the floor plate at the bottom of the container.



By doing so, the useable length of the reserve closing loop will obviously be much shorter than the manufacturer's recommendation and in most cases this misrouting won't be visible once the reserve freebag has been placed on top.



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The damage to the cutter sleeve therefore also occurs when using a packing/closing tool that provides extra noticeable leverage and ease of closing. The use of these tools are pretty popular amongst parachute riggers and demand less physical strength and effort to close but do not provide any feedback of actual pull force being used or need in order to close the container.



When the reserve container is being closed without the use of any leverage tools, it becomes pretty obvious that the required loop length is insufficient and therefore probably misrouted.

We, AAD, nv / Vigil America, Inc, do not advice against the use of these tools but strongly recommend to verify the correct routing of the reserve loop before closing the reserve container.

Compliance if deformation has been stated:

It is strongly advised that ALL VIGIL CUTTER UNITS that are or were previously installed in a harness container system where the cutter is placed at the bottom of the reserve tray against the floor plate and that clearly show these type of indentations, should be sent back to AAD or Vigil America for inspection and consequently a possible replacement.

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Advise: inspection recommended during the next reserve repack.

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