



SERVICE BULLETIN NUMBER PF03-01
August 13, 2003

The entire parachute industry received a Manufacturer Product Service Bulletin, Number CW03-01, dated July 15, 2003 from Capewell, affecting Capewell supplied pins and ripcords. The bulletin notifies customers that a mandatory test is required on all Capewell supplied ripcord pins and/or ripcords manufactured and supplied from November 28, 2001 to July 15, 2003. The service bulletin is posted on Capewell's website (www.capewell.com) and also herein.

All Para-Flite, Inc. manufactured parachute systems are affected by this.

The root cause of pin failure has not yet been determined, therefore, Para-Flite recommends that all ripcords provided by Para-Flite, regardless of date of manufacture, are tested. The Para-Flite part number is stamped on the handle, along with Capewell's manufacturer's code and date of manufacture. The format of the Para-Flite part number is as follows: 123456-7. The 123 portion of the part number will include one of the following number prefixes: 811, 816, 827 or 886.

Para-Flite recommends that pins are tested using only TEST 2, RIPCORD PIN TEST FOR REPACK. If the reserve is not due for re-pack, we recommend that the ripcord is removed from the pack and the pack is secured with temporary pins during test. Para-Flite will provide a test block upon request.

Further, it is Para-Flite's recommendation that all military organizations seek guidance from their cognizant authority regarding use of the Capewell recommended test.

The following is a supplement to Capewell TEST 2 that will assist in the performance of the test:

- Force may be applied using either a calibrated spring scale or an 11 pound weight. In either case, the force must be applied slowly and evenly to avoid overstressing the pin.
- Due to the angle in the pin, the pin has a tendency to rotate when testing with the angle up or to the left or right. When testing in these directions, the pin must be stabilized by pinching the body of the pin to prevent rotation. While pinching the body of the pin, interference with the applied load must be avoided

Para-Flite recommends against the use of TEST 1, RIPCORD PIN FIELD TEST. It is our opinion that there are too many variables present in the test method to reliably and accurately test the pin.

All ripcords provided by Para-Flite, Inc. will bear distinctive labels on the packaging to indicate testing has been accomplished.



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