

MIRAGE SYSTEMS, INC.

PRODUCT SERVICE BULLETIN No. 06-11

DATE: **24 JUNE 2011**

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SUBJECT: Rescission of Mirage Product Service Bulletin 03-11, dated 24 March, 2011 which suspended approval for the installation and use of an Aviacom SA/NV ARGUS® AAD in Mirage Systems, Inc. harness and container assemblies.

AFFECTED PRODUCTS: All Mirage harness and container models (G3, G4.1, RTS)

COMPLIANCE: **ADVISORY**

BACKGROUND: Mirage Systems, Inc. issued Product Service Bulletin 03-11 on 24 March, 2011 in response to a report from the field that an Argus® AAD manufactured by Aviacom, SA/NV had failed to completely cut through the reserve closing loop on a Mirage. Preliminary reports seemed to indicate that the Argus® AAD may have failed in such a way as to interfere with the manual operation of the reserve parachute.

Concerned for the safety of Mirage owners and users, Mirage Systems, Inc. took the action to suspend approval for the Argus® AAD to be installed in all Mirage and RTS models until Aviacom SA/NV, had time to determine the cause of this failure.

At the request of Aviacom SA/NV, a representative of Para Concepts of Ottawa, IL conducted an on-site investigation and composed a comprehensive report titled San Marcos Argus/Mirage Incident Preliminary Report, Revision 1, dated 30 March 2011. This report summarizes the details of the incident and the subsequent investigation, but makes no attempt to analyze the root cause of the failure.

Aviacom SA/NV then arranged for the failed cutter to be delivered to the firm of Skysupplieurope for examination and analysis. According to Skysupplieurope, the disassembled cutter was found to contain a foreign object which was reported to have been a small steel ball, similar to those sometimes used in parachute packing weights, or "shot bags".

In their report dated 07 April 2011, Skysupplieurope concluded that the small steel ball somehow found its way into the cutter assembly and caused damage to the circular cutter blade during operation. It is the conclusion of Skysupplieurope that "without the damage, there is no reason why the cutter should not have performed as designed." Furthermore, they state that "the combination of the damaged cutter edge and the foreign object may have obstructed the complete cutting of the loop,...".

Aviacom SA/NV is confident that this failure was caused by the presence of a foreign object in the cutter assembly and that further investigation is not warranted.

Federal Aviation Regulation Part 105.43(c) states, "*If installed*, the automatic activation device must be maintained in accordance with manufacturer instructions for that automatic activation device."

RECOMMENDATION: If an AAD is installed, carefully inspect the cutter assembly at each repack to verify that a foreign object is not present and that the cutter is not damaged. Before each jump, verify that the cutter has not fired.

SERVICE BULLETIN: Effective immediately, Mirage Systems, Inc. reinstates approval for the installation of the Aviacom SA/NV Argus® AAD in Mirage System, Inc. manufactured harness and container assemblies.

COMPLIANCE DATE: 24 JUNE 2011

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