



# PARACHUTES AUSTRALIA

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## SERVICE BULLETIN No PA SB9502 Rev.3

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**SUBJECT:** SERVICE LIFE FOR PARACHUTES AUSTRALIA BRAND EQUIPMENT

**STATUS:** MANDATORY

**IDENTIFICATION:** All emergency and reserve parachute components which carry the 'Parachutes Australia' (PA) brand, including the Pigmeo, S18, Slimpack, Thinback, Talon and Telesis container and harness assemblies, Airforce reserve, Hang Glider Back-up chute, 26 ft Lopo Conical, Aerolite, 26 ft Taffeta Conical, Hobbit, X228 and X300 reserve canopy assemblies for non-military, civilian use.

**BACKGROUND:** Service life limits for all PA brand products are contained in the maintenance and user manuals that were originally provided with the equipment.

Issue 1 of this Service Bulletin varied the service life limits previously established to permit PA brand parachute equipment to remain in service while ever deemed serviceable by a person duly authorised to inspect and declare serviceable such equipment.

Issue 2 was released on 15<sup>th</sup> August 2003 after evaluation of PA brand parachute equipment identified that despite little use and careful maintenance the webbing and fabric used in parachute harness/container construction degrades over time through handling, exposure to light and heat.

Since issue 2 was promulgated, Parachutes Australia has been evaluating Talon 3, Talon FS and Telesis harness and container systems across a wide range of age since their date of manufacture. It was found the condition of these systems to be of a higher standard compared to assessments made prior to Issue 2 of this service bulletin in 2003 predominately in the amount of UV exposure.

It is considered the reduction in the amount of UV exposure is attributed to increased awareness by equipment owners mainly due to education of the dangers of UV exposure by packers and riggers.

PA has therefore revised its policy on service life to distinguish between equipment which have a finite service life and those which may remain in service indefinitely, on condition.

## MANUFACTURER POLICY:

Those items which have a manufacturer imposed service life are:

PA BRAND DESCRIPTION	PART NUMBERS	SERVICE LIFE
Pigmeo Dual Pack & Harness System	S007 ( )	20 years
S18 Dual Pack & Harness System	S018	20 years
Slimpack 1 & 2 Emergency System	S003 ( )	20 years
Thinback Emergency System	S005 ( )	20 years
26' Taffeta Conical Parachute	P15	20 years
Talon and Talon 2 Pack and Harness Systems prior to Serial Number 10533	Container: 4111(2) Harness: 5111(2) Assembly: S025	20 years

All other PA brand Harness and Container assemblies and reserve parachute components may remain in service while deemed serviceable. This includes:

PA BRAND DESCRIPTION	PART NUMBERS	SERVICE LIFE
26 ft Lopo Reserve Parachute	P008 ( )	Indefinite
Aerolite Reserve Parachute	P015	Indefinite
X300 Reserve Parachute	P004	Indefinite
X228 Reserve Parachute	P003	Indefinite
Hobbit Reserve Parachute	P010	Indefinite
Airforce Reserve Parachute	P036R ( )	Indefinite
Hang Glider Backup Chute	P030	Indefinite
Talon 3 and Talon FS Dual Pack & Harness Systems Serial Number 10533 onwards	Container: 4111(2) Harness: 5111(2) Assembly: S025	Indefinite
Telesis Dual Pack & Harness System (all models)	Container: 4113(2) Harness: 5113(2) Assembly: S026	Indefinite

The assessment as to serviceability of the equipment is to be carried out by an APF Packer A, APF Rigger or the foreign equivalent.

At each scheduled periodic inspection the Packer/Rigger must check the age and condition of the equipment. Those components that have a finite service life shall be permanently withdrawn from service when they reach their service life, or earlier if deemed not airworthy.

Those components which may remain in service indefinitely shall be inspected and if airworthy returned to service. If determined to be not airworthy they must be permanently removed from service.

**AUTHORITY:** Managing Director Underline Designs Pty Ltd trading as Parachutes Australia

**COMPLIANCE DATE:** Immediate

**DISTRIBUTION:** Posted on APF Website  
Email broadcast to all APF Members.