

Item #1 Dual Hawk Tandem Closing System

Strong Enterprises has introduced a parts kit to facilitate installation of a two-loop main closing system (PN 480055). The two-loop system was developed as a safety mechanism to help eliminate premature opening of the main container.

Premature openings of the main container have occurred as a result of a broken closing loop, improper tolerances in pin spacing, interference of the kevlar bridle with the pin bridle, or by overstretching the harness /container assembly while deploying the drogue in a head down attitude.

Details and instructions can be obtained from the Strong Enterprises website:
www.strongparachutes.com/manuals.html

Item #2 AAD Maintenance

It has come to our attention that there may be some of our members who are seemingly unaware of the maintenance schedules for the Automatic Activation Devices which are in use at their dropzones.

First of all, FXC 12000 units require functional chamber testing at each repack cycle and must be sent to the factory for servicing every two years (Revision J).

The only maintenance required for FXC Astra AADs is to replace a weak battery pack or fired cutter assembly. Battery life of the lithium batteries is 150 hours under normal load and at standard temperature of 22.2C. Service life of the cutter is ten years. There has been sensitivity software upgrades for serial numbers 101 - 1192.

The Sentinel MK2000 requires factory service every six months when used on student equipment and every 12 months when used by experienced skydivers. The Sentinel device uses Alkaline "AA" batteries which should be changed every 120 days. The six and twelve month factory inspection/calibration requires the unit to be sent to the service centre. Using a test chamber to verify the firing altitude does not meet the manufacturers requirements.

Airtec CYPRES units require battery replacement after two years or 500 jumps, whichever comes first, when the unit displays 8998 or 8999, or fails to complete a selftest successfully. CYPRES units must be returned for factory servicing at four and eight year intervals, from the date of manufacture.