



SAFETY INFORMATION

2/89

Ref: G.Q. RESERVE PARACHUTES

G.Q. Parachutes Ltd. have issued a service bulletin (no. 25-01) which outlines a rectification programme for their parachute canopies which have 'failed' the Bromocresol test.

In order to accord with BPA policy, G.Q. Parachutes Ltd. have submitted the service bulletin to the BTIG laboratories for evaluation.

In a test report (Ref: 11/1069 DG/MMM) the BTIG have stated that they consider the procedures laid down in the service bulletin as satisfactory for the testing and treatment of canopies found to contain acid.

Accordingly the current grounding of canopies initiated in BPA Safety Notice SN 11/88 is now lifted for all British G.Q. canopies which have been serviced according to their bulletin and which have been issued with appropriate release documentation.

Tony Knight
Chairman Safety and Training Committee

14th February 1989

Distribution

All CCIs
All Riggers

CONFIDENTIAL TEST REPORT

Ref. No. 11/1069 DG/MNH



SHIRLEY TESTING SERVICE

G. Q. Parachutes Ltd.,
Portugal Road,
Woking,
Surrey GU21 5JE

7th February 1989

VERIFICATION OF DOCUMENTS

The subject of this report is contained in a letter from G.Q. Parachutes Ltd. dated January 24th 1989. The letter concerned a Grounding Notice issued by G. Q. Parachutes Ltd. on November 9th 1988 and various documents were enclosed relating to that notice, including the results of investigations carried out before the issue of the notice and subsequently.

The purposes of the investigations were to establish a method of "In the field" testing, to try to ascertain the basic cause of the problem, and to establish a practical method of correcting suspect parachute canopies.

Since the initial testing was carried out to establish that the presence of acid was the cause of failure of some canopies, we have been involved in advising G. Q. Parachutes Ltd. with regard to testing "in the field". We have also been involved during the development of a standard procedure for treating canopies to neutralise the acidity.

We have now studied the G. Q. Parachutes Ltd. Service Bulletin 25-01 (issued January 1989) which covers the procedure for testing for acidity and the treatment of canopies found to contain acid.

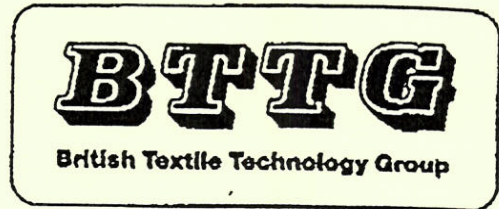
We are satisfied that the procedures laid down in this document are satisfactory.

Our main concerns are a) to ensure that the treatments do not affect the physical properties of the canopy fabrics in such a way that safety margins are exceeded. The evidence provided in the way of strength tests, porosity tests and shrinkage measurements indicate that treated canopies fall well within safety limits.

b) to ensure, as far as possible, that no further deterioration takes place in the longer term.

CONFIDENTIAL TEST REPORT

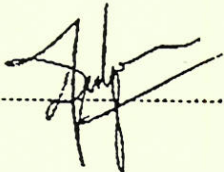
Ref. No. 11/1069 DG/MNM



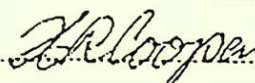
SHIRLEY TESTING SERVICE

We are satisfied that the steps taken for long term monitoring are adequate. It seems reasonable to suppose that no recurrence of acidity will take place in treated canopies, but retesting over the life of the parachutes is very desirable.

It is also clearly essential to ensure that netting currently in stock, and future supplies, are free from acid, or products which may form acid during use and/or storage.

Reported by..........D. GUDGEON

Laboratory Manager.....D. GUDGEON.....

Business Manager..........DR. H.R. COOPER
Specialised Analytical Services

Enquiries concerning the technical content of this report should be addressed to the Laboratory Manager named above.

Terms and conditions applying to the operations of Shirley Testing Service are printed on the back of the cover page of this report.