

## Parachuting—Operating Rules

6 November 2017

### General

Civil Aviation Authority advisory circulars contain guidance and information about standards, practices, and procedures that the Director has found to be an **acceptable means of compliance** with the associated rules and legislation.

However the information in the advisory circular does not replace the requirement for participants to comply with their own obligations under the Civil Aviation rules, the Civil Aviation Act 1990 and other legislation.

An advisory circular reflects the Director's view on the rules and legislation. It expresses CAA policy on the relevant matter. It is not intended to be definitive. Consideration will be given to other methods of compliance that may be presented to the Director. When new standards, practices, or procedures are found to be acceptable they will be added to the appropriate advisory circular. Should there be any inconsistency between this information and the rules or legislation, the rules and legislation take precedence.

An advisory circular may also include **guidance material** generally, including guidance on best practice as well as guidance to facilitate compliance with the rule requirements. However, guidance material should not be regarded as an acceptable means of compliance.

An advisory circular may also include **technical information** that is relevant to the standards or requirements.

### Purpose

This advisory circular provides explanatory material and methods acceptable to the Director for showing compliance with requirements relating to parachute operations under Civil Aviation Rule Part 105 *Parachuting – Operating Rules*.

### Related Rules

This advisory circular relates specifically to Part 105. It also refers to operating rules Parts 71, 91 and 115—specifically Subparts J and K.

### Change Notice

Revision 2 clarifies the responsibilities of the parachutist in rule 105.5.

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## Subpart A—General

### 105.5 Persons making parachute descents

Rule 105.5(a)(1) refers to individual's parachute certificates. These certificates are issued by a Part 149 organisation. As the CAA issues and provides oversight of these Part 149 organisations, the CAA ensures that parachutist certificates issued by any Part 149 organisation meet the same minimum requirements.

As detailed in rule 105.5(a)(2) and (3) it is the parachutist's responsibility to comply with the privileges and limitations of the certificate; any ratings on that certificate; and the operational standards and procedures contained in the Part 149 organisation's exposition that issued that certificate.

Where an operator or pilot-in-command of the descent aircraft has procedures, these must also be complied with. It is the right of an operator to conduct a competency and eligibility assessment on individuals prior to permitting operations under their procedures.

### 105.15 Parachute landing area

This rule requires the person making a parachute descent to assure themselves that where they intend to land has been designated as a parachute landing area (PLA) by a parachute organisation certificated under Part 149.

When the PLA is established by the parachute organisation, part of the evaluation process is to address the amendment of aeronautical charts to depict the PLA location. When the PLA is on an aerodrome, liaison with the aerodrome operator is required to ensure the area is properly depicted on the aerodrome chart and guidance is given for itinerant aircraft as to the positioning of the PLA. Where the PLA is temporary the parachute organisation should ensure a NOTAM or AIP Supplement is issued for the period of operation.

### 105.27 Descents from higher altitudes

This rule explains the use of oxygen in relation to altitude. This requirement relates directly to rule 91.209 and is applicable to both crew and parachutist.

The supplemental/supplementary oxygen system must be an approved system and meet the requirements of Part 91 Appendices A.17 and A.19 or an alternate specification approved by the Director. The oxygen used in the system must be of Aviation Oxygen Standard and meet the requirements of Part 91 Appendix A.16.

## Subpart B—Parachute equipment

### 105.55 Automatic activation devices

While this particular rule mentions only students and tandem pairs, some Part 149 organisations require all parachutists operating under their standard operating procedures (SOPs) to use an automatic activation device (AAD). CAA supports this approach and recommends that all participants in parachuting activities use AADs.

Users of AADs should be aware of the device's level of reliability and its limitations; be knowledgeable about the various parameters of the device; and be trained on the specific use and settings for the particular AAD. Users should be well informed about the use of the AAD and have access to the manufacturer's instructions.

Users should understand that AADs are strictly backup devices and are not intended to replace training or timely manual execution of emergency procedures.

Jumpers should make a pre-jump check using the manufacturer's recommended procedures for proper setting, arming, and operational status verification to ensure proper functioning of the AAD. This is especially important when using an AAD that has selectable or adjustable activation settings, or when the intended landing area is at an elevation different from that of the departure aerodrome.