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<th>Technical &amp; Safety Information Notice No.</th>
<th>5/2008</th>
<th>W.N. 18</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Date of Issue</td>
<td>18 July 2008</td>
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</table>
| Subject Matter                           | Information Notice No. 17, dated 14 July, with details of an update regarding the Vigil AAD, contained an error in relation to the Vigil restriction by the Australian Parachute Federation (APF).  
This Information Notice corrects that error and correctly states the current position.  
Information Notice 17 was sent to Technical & Safety Officers of parachuting association and federations, but it was NOT posted on the FAI web site. It will NOT appear on the FAI web site. This present IN, 18, will be posted on the site.  
I apologise to Paul Osborne and to the APF for any embarrassment caused by a misreading and a misquoting of their notice and the APF position re Vigil AAD. The error was unintentional.  
I gratefully acknowledge the help and assistance of Kim Hardwick, APF Technical Officer; Paul Osborne, APF Director Safety; Graeme Windsor, President IPC; Trudy Kemp, BPA Assistant to NCSO/TO and John Hitchen, BPA Joint NTSO/TO, for their clarification of the position. |
VIGIL AAD - Update on position re VIGIL AAD
is as follows:-

AUSTRALIA
The Australian directive, (AD/PARA/18 VIGIL Automatic
Activation Device 7/2008 TX) has been withdrawn by the
Australian Civil Aviation Safety Authority.

Information Notice 4/2008, W.N. 17, incorrectly stated that the
APF notice of 13 June 2008, issued by Mr Paul Osborne,
Director Safety, banned ALL Vigil AADs, not just those
manufactured prior to 1 August 2008.
This was incorrect and arose from an incomplete reading of
the text of the APF notice and the referenced Op. Reg. 6.1.14
quoted in the notice.

The situation with APF is that no Vigil AAD may be used by
freefall students (excluding Tandem). There is no
specification as to which type of Vigil or any reference to
date of manufacture.

Paul Osborne specifically states: - I have withdrawn approval
for the use of Vigils in student equipment. Experienced
jumpers can make their own informed decision as to their
use after reading all the information available.

United Kingdom
This notice, signed by Paul Applegate, Chairman Riggers’
Committee, states:-
A number of problems have been found, both in the UK and
overseas with regard to the cutters on VIGIL AADs. Because
of these problems all reserve parachute harness containers
equipped with VIGIL AADs (manufactured by Advanced
Aerospace Designs) are grounded until the following has
taken place:
Check the AAD manufacture date on the manufacturer
identity card. If the date is 1 August 2006 or earlier, remove
the VIGIL AAD and do not refit to any container.

If the date is later than 1 August 2006, check that the VIGIL
AAD cutter is made of stainless steel and the hole has got a
vinyl sleeve. If not, replace the selector and the closing loop.
The replacement must be with parts supplied by Advanced
Aerospace Designs, and must be fitted by suitably qualified
riggers.
Safety Information – Info 1/08, dated 06 June 2008
This notice, signed by Paul Applegate, Chairman Riggers’ Committee, states:-
Following on from BPA Safety Notice 1/08 grounding VIGIL AADs manufactured prior to August 2006. At the Riggers’ Committee meeting of the 6 June 2008 it was decided that with immediate effect all VIGIL AADs must be fitted with Type 3 cutters
VIGIL units with serial numbers lower than 8000 may have either Type 1 or Type 2 cutters and these need to be replaced immediately by the manufacturer or their dealer.
The reserve packing card must be annotated to indicate that the Type 3 cutter has been fitted.

(Photographs showing the three types of cutters are on the BPA Safety Information – Info 1/08 notice).

Both these notices, Safety Information, Info 1/08, and Safety Notice, Notice 1/08, can be viewed on the BPA web site, www.bpa.org.uk, by clicking on the Stay Safe menu.

FRANCE
The French directive (DGAC Emergency AD UF-2008-005) is still in place.
This Government Agency directive bans the use of VIGIL AADs manufactured prior to 1 August 2006.

Authorities
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Civil Aviation Safety Authority, Commonwealth of Australia

Direction Général de l’Aviation Civile (DGAC) - French Aviation Authority. See - DGAC Emergency AD UF-2008-005
http://www.aviation-civile.gouv.fr.htm
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The Information Notices may result from:-

1. An incident or experience in the field being reported.
2. A directive or notice issued by an aviation or government authority concerning parachuting operations or parachuting equipment.
3. The issue of a notice by a manufacturer or by a National Parachuting Organisation. In the case of equipment being the subject of the bulletin the reader is advised to check with the manufacturer regarding the current status or position of that equipment.

Technical & Safety Committee of IPC, IPC and FAI accept no liability for the use or misuse of any information contained in this Information Notice. The reader assumes all liability.

The Technical & Safety Committee, International Parachuting Commission, can be contacted on e-mail - imcnulty@skydiveireland.ie