

# Service Letter



## 1. General

(a) No.:	SL 21
(b) Issue / Date	Issue A / 29-01-2026
(c) Title:	Unapproved Balloon Fabric Recoating
(d) Description:	Highlighting potential dangers of recoating balloon fabrics.
(e) Applicability:	All
(f) Effectivity:	All

**Note:** Applicability= All types and variants to which the advice can be applied.  
Effectivity= Actual CN or group of CN's to which the advice applies.

## 2. Accomplishment Instructions

Hot air balloon envelope fabrics are manufactured with precisely applied coatings that are integral to the fabric's performance. Coatings directly affect key characteristics including tensile strength, tear strength, and permeability.

As envelope fabric ages, the original coating (and fibres) can degrade, resulting in reduced performance. In response, some operators have applied aftermarket coatings to aged envelopes in an effort to restore properties and extend service life. However, Cameron Balloons does not recommend or approve recoating of balloon envelopes for the following reasons.

Recoating aged fabric can produce highly variable and unpredictable results. Existing fabric may be contaminated with dirt, oils, or combustion by-products, and recoating application methods are often coarse and inconsistent. This inconsistency creates non-uniform fabric properties. Furthermore, due to the variability of application, test samples cannot be relied upon to accurately represent the condition of the entire balloon envelope. As a result, some repair stations may refuse to inspect coated envelopes.

Recoating will not renew fabric fibres; therefore, the tear strength of aged fabric will likely remain low. The coating may also inhibit fibre bunching during a tear, significantly reducing tear strength and creating an unsafe condition. Whilst recoating may reduce permeability and increase tensile strength, any improvements observed have been inconsistent and non-uniform across the envelope and therefore cannot be relied upon. Considering interactions between original coatings, aftermarket coatings, contaminants, and the base fabric are not well controlled, fabric performance may be affected further.

It is for these reasons Cameron Balloons does not currently offer recoating services and cannot recommend any such aftermarket products.

**3. Materials**

None

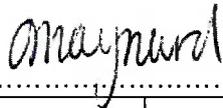
**4. Other Publications Affected**

None

**5. Remarks**

None

Compiled by:



Notes: None

Date: 29/01/2026

Name: O. Maynard

**6. Design Organisation Approval**

**Approval Statement**

The technical content of this document is approved under the authority of DOA nr UK.21J.0140



Date: 29 JAN 2026

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