APPROVED BY EASA UNDER APPROVAL NUMBER 10038169

8.3 VELCRO RIP PANELS

8.3.1 GENERAL INFORMATION

This supplement shall be inserted in the Flight Manual, in Section 8: 'Supplements' with the revisions record sheet amended accordingly.

Information contained herein supplements, or in the case of conflict, supersedes that contained in the basic Flight Manual. For Limitations, Procedures, and Performance Data not contained in this supplement, consult the basic Hot Air Balloon Flight Manual.

Issue 2 of this supplement consists of four pages.

Supplement 7.3 (four pages) to Maintenance Manual Issue 10 is required to ensure continued airworthiness.

8.3.2 LIMITATIONS

8.3.2.1 VELCRO RIP PANEL

1. Opening of the Velcro rip panel is not permitted at heights greater then 2 m (6ft) above ground level, except in an emergency.

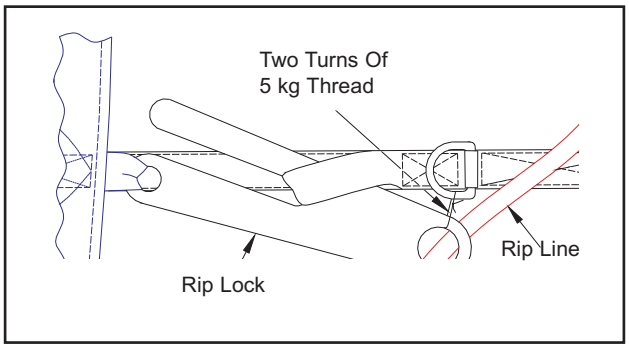
8.3.3 EMERGENCY PROCEDURES

No change.

8.3.4 NORMAL PROCEDURES

8.3.4.1 ENVELOPE PREPARATION

The panel needs to be carefully closed before inflating the envelope. The strength of the seal is very dependent on how firmly the Velcro is pressed together, so the seal must be well pressed down. It is also very important to ensure the Velcro is dry and free from grass etc.



▲ Riplock Rigging

To close the panel the ends of each straight Section should be correctly aligned and the Section pulled taut from each end, allowing the seal to be closed neatly.

This procedure should be repeated for each Section of the panel edge.

Nylon thread or knitting wool of about 5kg (10lb) strength should be used to fasten the breaking points.

The rip locks should be tied off after the velcro panel has been sealed closed. Open a 60cm (2ft) length of Velcro starting about 30cm (1ft) from the lock. This allows easy access to tie off the rip locks from outside the balloon. Using two turns of thread closely tie the rip lock hooks to the adjacent D-rings.

It is necessary to enter the bottom of the balloon to tie off the lower Section of rip line to the bottom pulley. The steel ring at the top of the lower Section of the rip line should be tied off to the becket of the lower pulley either by using the Velcro tie off, or four turns of thread as above.

Be sure to pull enough slack red rip line into the top of the envelope to prevent the weight of the line opening the end rip lock during inflation.

4.9.2 Pre-Take-Off checks

Care must be taken to ensure that the rip line has not passed inside the slot of any of the rip lock hooks, and this should be rechecked from the basket before flight.

Note: For combination rip Velcro parachute valves, the Velcro rip should be secured as above and the parachute then prepared as Section 4.4.1. It is particularly important to ensure the rip locks are properly secured, as use of the parachute could open the Velcro rip panel if they are not.

8.3.5 WEIGHT CALCULATIONS

No change.

8.3.6 BALLOON AND SYSTEMS DESCRIPTION

8.3.6.1 Velcro Rip Panel

The Velcro rip is a panel in the top of the envelope, held in place around part of its edge by Velcro. Pulling the red rip line breaks the Velcro seal allowing the envelope to deflate. The Velcro rip panel will not re-close once operated, and must not be used until the balloon is committed to a landing.

Rip locks are fitted at intervals around the panel's edge. These prevent loads in the panel from inadvertently opening the Velcro. Both the locks and the rip line are held in place with ties, which must be broken by pulling the red rip line before the panel can be deployed.

Envelopes fitted with a Velcro rip panel may be fitted with a separate vent for the controlled release of hot air in flight. Either turning vents are fitted which may be opened simultaneously, or a separate 'side-dump' vent is fitted (red and white control line).

8.3.6.2 Combination Rip Panel / Parachute Valve

The combination top is a deflation system in which a parachute is fitted in the centre of a circular Velcro rip panel. This system is used mainly for larger balloons.

The parachute is used for in-flight venting and for deflation in light winds. In stronger winds a rapid deflation may be achieved by using the Velcro rip panel.

Note: Velcro / Combination rip panels should be stored closed to prevent envelope thread damage from the 'hook' side of the Velcro.

8.3.7 BALLOON MAINTENANCE, HANDLING AND CARE

No change.

8.3.9 EQUIPMENT LIST

No change.

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