



SERVICE BULLETIN

Date: August 4, 2008

Service Bulletin # LS 8-08-01

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Subject: 525 Black Dacron used to build FOX and FLiK canopies

Status: Recommended Inspection

Identification: FOX and FLiK canopy with **black Dacron** suspension lines manufactured after April 2006. The serial number is encoded with the date of manufacture. Example 24**604**123. The third digit represents the year "6" equals 2006. The fourth and fifth digit represent the month "04" represents April.

Background: Apex has received and confirmed reports of five parachutes constructed with 525 black Dacron line that have excessive line stretch. The line stretch will be apparent in as few as 10 jumps. The line stretch, up to 3 inches, is predominantly in the center of the A-line group (lines A4 and A5). The stretch decreases away from the center (A3, A6)- with little or no stretch in lines A1, A2, A7, A8.

Opening performance, flight performance and landing performance **do not** appear to be affected as long as the elongation is symmetrical, which so far it has been. The line manufacturer believes the stretching issue exists only with the colored line. However, as a precaution, we are recommending inspection of the A-lines for uneven stretch.

Service Bulletin: Secure the front connector links to a common point. At the canopy, apply light to moderate tension to all eight A-lines. Compare the length. All eight lines should be the same length (+/- 1/2 inch). If there is a difference in line length greater than 1/2 inch (13 mm) contact Apex Base for further instructions to resolving the problem. We are sorry for the inconvenience this may cause, however, we feel it is necessary to ensure your safety.

Compliance date: At the next repack.

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