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8.27 LAUNCHING HANG GLIDERS

8.27.1 GENERAL INFORMATION

Issue 1 of this supplement has four pages.

There are no additional continued airworthiness requirements associated with this supplement.

This supplement was originally approved by UK.CAA as Supplement 16 to Flight Manual, Issue 9 on 15 January 2003.

8.27.2 LIMITATIONS

8.27.2.18 PERSONAL PARACHUTES

- I. The hang glider pilot must be equipped with a parachute.

8.27.3 EMERGENCY PROCEDURES

No change.

8.27.4 NORMAL PROCEDURES

8.27.4.16 LAUNCHING HANG GLIDERS

8.27.4.16.1 Suspension

The weight of the glider should be taken by two adjacent karabiners. Suitable suspensions are a length of 1800 kg (4,000 lb.) envelope load tape or 4-6 mm Kevlar cord, knotted in a loop around the karabiners and tied to a suitable point on the glider (usually on or near the king-post).

The line should be long enough to allow the balloon to be inflated on the ground alongside the hang glider. Never use a second suspension line.

It is the responsibility of the hang glider pilot to establish the suitability of the hang glider for dropping. This should be determined with reference to the hang glider manufacturer.

8.27.4.16.2 Release Mechanism

The simplest and most reliable release method is to cut the suspension tape or cord with a knife at the balloon basket. The occupants of the basket must stand back at the moment of release to avoid injury in case the taut line springs back.

A spare knife must be available in the basket.

8.27.4.16.3 Take Off

To carry out a smooth take off the weather must be close to ideal from the balloonist's point of view. The load-carrying ability of the balloon for the ambient temperature should be checked on the loading chart.

Tether lines should be used to stabilise the balloon over the glider. Sufficient lift should be built up to lift the glider off the ground before the tether lines are released. Avoid damaging or snagging the glider with the tether lines.

It is the balloonist's responsibility to ensure a clean climb out as the glider is very vulnerable to any collision with obstacles.

8.27.4.16.4 Climb

During the climb the glider pilot cannot see the balloon, but can hear conversation in the basket. It is important to maintain clear communication during the climb.

Climb rate depends on the stability of the glider (rapid rates of climb can cause the glider to rotate or sway). A climb rate of 500 ft/min (2.5 m/sec) is usually satisfactory.

8.27.4.16.5 Release

It is important that the balloon slows its rate of climb and actually descends before releasing the weight of the glider, otherwise a dangerously fast rate of climb could occur. This is particularly important for Velcro rip balloons. A descent rate of 400 ft/min (2 m/sec) should be used for a standard hang glider, and a rate of 700 ft/min (3.5 m/sec) should be used for a two-seater.

8.27.5 WEIGHT CALCULATIONS

No change.

8.27.6 BALLOON AND SYSTEMS DESCRIPTION

No change.

8.27.7 BALLOON MAINTENANCE, HANDLING AND CARE

No change.

8.27.9 EQUIPMENT LIST

No change.

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