

# NOTICE

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION

N 8900.60

National Policy

Effective Date:  
12/12/08

Cancellation Date:  
12/12/09

**SUBJ:** 180-Day Parachute Repack

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- 1. Purpose of This Notice.** This notice provides guidance for aviation safety inspectors (ASI) assigned to conduct surveillance under Title 14 of the Code of Federal Regulations (14 CFR) parts 91 and 105 concerning the rule amendment changing the repack interval for parachutes from 120 days to 180 days. This amendment is effective December 19, 2008.
- 2. Audience.** The primary audience for this notice is Flight Standards District Office (FSDO) ASIs assigned to conduct surveillance under parts 91 and 105. The secondary audience includes Flight Standards branches and divisions in the regions and in headquarters.
- 3. Where You Can Find This Notice.** Inspectors can access this notice through the Flight Standards Information Management System (FSIMS) at <http://fsims.avs.faa.gov>. Operators and the public can find this notice at <http://fsims.faa.gov>.
- 4. Background.**

  - a. History.** The FAA issued a rule in 1978 requiring that all main and most reserve parachutes be packed every 120 days.
  - b. Parachute Uses.** The majority of nonmilitary parachutes used in the United States are either sport parachutes or parachutes used for emergency purposes. Nearly all sport parachutes are used for skydiving and use a “dual parachute system.” Dual parachute systems contain a “main” parachute and second parachute called a “reserve” parachute, used if the main parachute fails.
  - c. New Data.** New reliability data from U.S. military, foreign aviation authorities, and the parachute industry indicate that the packing interval can safely be increased.
  - d. New Rule.** Recently, the FAA amended parts 91 and 105, effective December 19, 2008, to increase the interval from 120 days to 180 days. The final rule also makes several minor corrections to parts 91 and 105. You can find this rule in docket number FAA-2005-21829, Amendment Nos. 91-305 and 105-13.
- 5. Guidance.** Effective December 19, 2008, the repack intervals for parachutes governed under parts 91 and 105 increase to 180 days in the following manner:

**a. December 19th Repack Date.** If 120 days is December 19th, 2008, the repack is extended to February 17th.

**b. Repack Date Before December 19th.** If a parachute exceeds 120 days before December 19, 2008, it can be returned to operations that day and be jumped again; however, it should not exceed 180 days since the last repack.

**Note:** The amended rule makes no changes regarding the Automatic Activation Device (AAD). If the battery replacement due date is before the repack due date, the battery pack still has to be replaced on schedule.

**6. Action.** ASIs should review the revised guidance provided in this notice. ASIs should provide this notice to the operators for whom they are responsible, alerting them of the amended repack requirements.

**7. Disposition.** We will permanently incorporate the information in this notice into FSIMS before this notice expires. Direct questions or comments concerning this notice, in regard to the 180-day repack interval under parts 91 and 105, to the General Aviation and Avionics Branch (AFS-350) at (202) 385-6403.

ORIGINAL SIGNED by  
John McGraw for

John M. Allen  
Director, Flight Standards Service