



SAFETY INFORMATION

3/05

NEXT TANDEM 3-RING FAILURE

An incident occurred on the 18th September 2005 when a 3-ring release failed during the deployment of a NEXT Tandem rig. The instructor experienced a hard opening, during which the right-hand riser released, because the middle ring and the riser locking loop broke. The RSL ring was also torn off. On subsequent inspection, it was noted that the middle ring on the left-hand riser was also slightly distorted.

The manufacturers have been contacted and have stated that they have decided to change the supplier and change over to stainless steel rings, made in Europe (the current rings are manufactured in the U.S.A). At this time the manufacturers have yet to examine the equipment, or the video of the descent.

It is the manufacturers opinion that 'Collins' lanyards should be fitted to NEXT Tandem rigs.

This will be discussed at the Riggers meeting and STC on the 6th October 2005.

John Hitchen
National Coach & safety Officer

22nd September 2005

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