



**Deutscher Fallschirmsportverband (DFV) e.V.  
Deutscher Aero-Club (DAeC) e.V. Luftsportgerätebüro  
Verband unabhängiger Prüfer von Luftsportgerät e.V.**

Information for all schools, clubs  
Parachute Technicians  
Riggers

**Information**  
**Lifetime limitation for PARATEC Products**

Edited: 03.05.2009

Subject: Rules for lifetime limitation of PARATEC products

Statement of the company PARATEC:

We as manufacturer have no lifetime limitation in the old meaning of the word as a generally limited time for all or special components. We still respect and support the strong recommendation of our Associations to take harness and container system and reserve parachute (as they are lifesaving devices) out of service after 15 years.

Since a couple of years there is no valid regulation by any German national law covering this subject.

Therefore our – the manufacturers side – defined procedure to maintain airworthiness of parachutes / components is the annual (or after use or repair) airworthiness check by the technical personnel before the reserve is being repacked.

The technical personnel with their expertise releases after inspection the components back to service for another year - no matter if the equipment already has been to service only 1 or 15 years.

The airworthiness can not be guaranteed for a complete year though, since there might appear damage to it within the time of this period, or it simply is used in action. In this case or after repair and / or modification it has to be inspected before the regular 1 year cycle in order to be released to service again.

Older PARATEC manuals (date up to 2003) show the old 15 year lifetime rule, because they were manufactured at that time, when this rule was the law. Also these components will be treated according the present manuals. ([www.paratec.de](http://www.paratec.de))

For my common sense the practical side - when it comes down to any technical judgement incl. questions related to lifetime, the following solution seems to be appropriate:

In case any questions or doubts come up, the next higher level of decision should be contacted. (Owner contacts rigger, rigger parachute technician, parachute technician contacts manufacturer).

To PARATEC this way looks best. The technical inspection on older equipment should have an additional focus on damages caused by age or intensive use.

Unfortunately a regular inspection does not give any information about loss of strength of webbing, tapes and canopy fabric – or air permeability.

Therefore design and construction also have to be within the scope of any judgement as overall shape, status of abrasion, dirt, and change of colour caused by UV light and so on....

Regardless of the intensity/quality of any inspection, we cannot give a reliable statement about present strength

of any component, unless you test and/or measure.

This is a fact in any case – if the component has 1 or many years of age.

In case of older reserve canopies, we can offer an air permeability check, because not every loft has the equipment for this. But again: nobody is forced by law to do this.

Responsible for the release to service of any component is the technical personnel signing for the airworthiness.

Mit freundlichen Grüßen

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- dare to be different -

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