

RA 2355 - Static Line and Freefall Parachuting

Rationale

Static line and freefall parachuting have resulted in numerous injuries. Failure to manage the activity appropriately could result in damage to the Aircraft and increase Risk to Life (RtL) to 1st and 3rd party personnel. This Regulatory Article (RA) relates to the Aircraft's clearance to conduct the activity and must be read in conjunction with RA 1150¹ which covers the end to end governance of the activity. Aviation Duty Holders (ADH) and Accountable Managers (Military Flying) (AM(MF)) are to ensure Aircraft within their Area of Responsibility (AoR) are cleared for the activity and are to carefully manage the activity through specific approvals and detailed procedures.

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Regulation 2355(1)

Approval for Static Line and Freefall Parachuting

2355(1) ADH and AM(MF) **shall** approve all static line and freefall parachuting from UK Military Registered Aircraft.

Acceptable Means of Compliance 2355(1)

Approval for Static Line and Freefall Parachuting

1. ADH or AM(MF) **should** only approve static line and freefall parachuting from Aircraft within their AoR that are specifically cleared for the role in the Aircraft's Release To Service (RTS) or, for non-RTS operations, the Military Permit to Fly (MPTF) or Aircraft limitations document as referenced in the Certificate of Usage (CofU)².
2. ADH or AM(MF) Orders for non-RTS operations **should** specify the requirements for static line and freefall parachuting from UK Military Registered Aircraft taking account of the ► **Headquarters 1 Group Air Staff Orders (HQ 1 Gp ASOs) and Air Mobility Operations Manual Parts A and B.** ◀
3. ADH or AM(MF) **should** assure that any UK Military Airborne Equipment³ (AE) used for static line parachuting is approved for use within the RTS of the intended Aircraft.
4. ADH or AM(MF) **should** ensure that any non-UK Military static line AE is cleared for use on Aircraft within their AoR.
5. ADH or AM(MF) **should** assure that any non-UK Military freefall AE is safe to be carried on Aircraft within their AoR.

Guidance Material 2355(1)

Approval for Static Line and Freefall Parachuting

6. This RA relates to the Aircraft's clearance to conduct the activity and does not detail the complex RtL and Safety responsibilities. These responsibilities are divided between those pertinent to aviation and those pertinent to the specific conduct of the activity and are detailed in RA 1150¹, which must be read in conjunction with this RA.

Regulation 2355(2)

Procedures for Static Line and Freefall Parachuting

2355(2) ADH, AM(MF) and Commanders **shall** publish Orders for the conduct of all static line and freefall parachuting from Aircraft within their AoR.

¹ Refer to RA 1150 – Airborne Equipment and Airborne Forces.

² ► Refer to RA 1160 – The Defence Air Environment Operating Framework; and RA 1305 – Military Permit to Fly (In-Service), (Special Case Flying) and (Single Task). ◀

³ Airborne Equipment can be split into Airborne Forces Equipment (AFE), equipment and ancillary items used to insert personnel into Drop Zones, and Aerial Delivery Equipment (ADE), equipment and ancillary items, including an Airdrop Platform where used, to deliver Cargo to Drop Zones.

**Acceptable
Means of
Compliance
2355(2)**

Procedures for Static Line and Freefall Parachuting

7. The ►HQ 1 Gp ASOs and Air Mobility Operations Manual Parts A and B◄ **should** be used as the definitive document for all Military static line and freefall parachuting.
8. Any Military static line and freefall parachuting activity that is required to deviate from the ►HQ 1 Gp ASOs and Air Mobility Operations Manual Parts A and B◄ **should** be discussed with ►HQ 1 Gp, RAF,◄ except Test and Evaluation conducted by an approved organization⁴ in accordance with (iaw) their procedures. If the deviation is associated with the procedures for the Aircraft, it **should** be approved by the relevant ADH or AM(MF).
9. Parachuting programmes not conducted under ►HQ 1 Gp ASOs and Air Mobility Operations Manual Parts A and B◄ are designated sport parachuting. Sport parachuting from UK Military Aircraft **should** be specifically approved by the appropriate ADH or AM(MF).
10. Where approved, sport parachuting procedures **should** be promulgated by ADHs, AM(MF) and Commanders.
11. All reportable occurrences **should** be reported iaw RA 1410⁵.
12. All units conducting parachuting operations **should** ensure that the correct Notice to Aviation (NOTAM) action has been put in place for the duration of the activity.

**Guidance
Material
2355(2)**

Procedures for Static Line and Freefall Parachuting

13. Sport parachuting can be conducted for military purposes, eg engagement events such as air shows.
14. Where sport parachuting has been approved by the ADH or AM(MF) the National Governing Body procedures detailed in the British Skydiving Operations Manual may provide some guidance for orders and procedures. However, the procedures set out in the ►HQ 1 Gp ASOs and Air Mobility Operations Manual Parts A and B◄ for equivalent military parachute systems provide sound guidance on how the activity may be conducted which the ADH or AM(MF) may wish to consult prior to promulgating sport parachuting procedures.

**Regulation
2355(3)**

Procedures for Fast Roping and Abseiling

2355(3) Withdrawn – Incorporated into RA 2357⁶.

**Acceptable
Means of
Compliance
2355(3)**

Procedures for Fast Roping and Abseiling

15. Withdrawn – Incorporated into RA 2357.

**Guidance
Material
2355(3)**

Procedures for Fast Roping and Abseiling

16. Withdrawn – Incorporated into RA 2357.

⁴ As recognized by the MAA.

⁵ Refer to RA 1410 – Occurrence Reporting and Management.

⁶ Refer to RA 2357 – Troop Insertions and Extraction Systems.