

RA 1700 - Airborne Equipment

Rationale

The delivery of personnel or equipment from Aircraft using Airborne Equipment (AE)^{1,2} is a key enabler of military capability and for Force Development. Failure to manage AE activity appropriately could result in increased Risk to Life (RtL) to personnel, 3rd parties, damage to Aircraft, and / or damage to the AE. This Regulatory Article (RA) identifies the Regulations to ensure organizations³ understand the Safety aspects, and their Responsibilities, associated with their AE activity and to enable application of a suitable regulatory framework. This will ensure that AE is safe to operate and is being operated safely throughout its life.

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Definitions

Definitions relevant to this RA

1. **Airborne Equipment.** The generic term covering the wide variety of parachuting assemblies for personnel and equipment, Airdrop Platforms, supply dropping equipment and ancillary items that are used in the insertion of personnel and equipment onto Drop Zones. This equipment can be split into two areas: Airborne Forces Equipment and Aerial Delivery Equipment.

Regulation 1700(1)

Airborne Equipment Regulatory Requirements

1700(1) Organizations conducting AE activity within Defence Aviation (DA) and the Defence Air Environment (DAE) **shall** be appropriately regulated.

Acceptable Means of Compliance 1700(1)

Airborne Equipment Regulatory Requirements

2. Organizations responsible for the use of AE **should** ensure compliance with the regulatory requirements detailed as follows:

- a. MOD-approved Airborne Forces Equipment – refer to RA 1701⁴.
- b. MOD-approved Aerial Delivery Equipment – refer to RA 1702⁵.
- c. Foreign Military Airborne Forces Equipment – refer to RA 1703⁶.
- d. Non-Combat Parachuting – refer to RA 1704⁷.

3. Organizations **should** ensure that Assurance is conducted for all their AE activity. These organizations will be 2nd party assured by their Chains of Command, and 3rd party assured by the MAA.

4. Organizations conducting AE **should** clearly bound the Duty Holder delineation of the activity. For static line parachuting this is the point at which the parachute assembly is no longer attached to the Aircraft. For freefall parachuting this is when the parachutist clears the Aircraft and is free from direct contact with the Aircraft or any associated wake turbulence.

¹ Refer to MAA02 – MAA Master Glossary.

² The use of "Airborne Equipment" includes the associated ancillary equipment.

³ This includes the Aviation Duty Holder (ADH), Accountable Manager (Military Flying) (AM(MF)), Continuing Airworthiness Management Organization, Delivery Team, Maintenance Approved Organization Scheme, Design Approved Organization Scheme, and operators of AE authorized to conduct Aerial Despatch descents for any given AE.

⁴ Refer to RA 1701 – MOD-Approved Airborne Forces Equipment.

⁵ Refer to RA 1702 – MOD-Approved Aerial Delivery Equipment.

⁶ Refer to RA 1703 – Foreign Military Airborne Forces Equipment.

⁷ Refer to RA 1704 – Non-Combat Parachuting.

**Guidance
Material
1700(1)**

Airborne Equipment Regulatory Requirements

5. The RA 1700 Series applies to all use of AE within the DA and DAE.