

RA 1703 – Foreign Military Airborne Forces Equipment

Rationale *The delivery of personnel from Aircraft using foreign military Airborne Forces Equipment (AFE)^{1, 2} is a key enabler of military capability. Failure to manage foreign military AFE activity appropriately could result in increased Risk to Life (RtL) to personnel, 3rd parties, or damage to Aircraft. This Regulatory Article (RA) identifies the Regulations to ensure organizations understand their Responsibilities associated with the use of foreign military AFE to ensure it is safe to operate and operated safely.*

Contents **Applicability**
Definitions Relevant to this RA
1703(1): Governance of Foreign Military Airborne Forces Equipment

Applicability **Applicability**

1. RA 1703 is applicable for the conduct of parachuting using foreign military AFE. These are parachuting activities conducted by UK military Parachute Units (including attached foreign troops where applicable).

Definitions **Definitions Relevant to this RA**

2. **Parachuting Operating Duty Holder (ODH).** An Accountable individual, who is at minimum a 2* Crown Servant, with formal delegated Responsibilities for actively managing Air Safety for operation of foreign military AFE via an effective Air Safety Management System³ to ensure that associated RtL is As Low As Reasonably Practicable (ALARP) and Tolerable within their defined Areas of Responsibility (AoR).

3. **Parachuting Commander.** A 2* Crown Servant who is in the direct Chain of Command of the unit participating in the activity, who has oversight of the activity. They have a personal Duty of Care (DoC) for their troops throughout the activity.

4. **Foreign Military AFE.** Foreign military AFE are parachutes systems (static line and freefall) and associated equipment that is in the inventory of a foreign military organization and used under that organization's orders and instructions. It is not in the Compendium of Airborne Equipment Release Certificates (CAERC)⁴.

Regulation 1703(1) **Governance of Foreign Military Airborne Forces Equipment**

1703(1) Parachuting Commanders **shall** manage RtL associated with the use of foreign military AFE by troops within their respective AoRs.

Acceptable Means of Compliance 1703(1) **Governance of Foreign Military Airborne Forces Equipment**

5. Where UK Armed Forces personnel operate with foreign military AFE, the Parachuting Commander **should** manage RtL associated with parachuting with foreign military AFE to ALARP and Tolerable.

6. The Parachuting Commander **should** publish orders and instructions that detail how their RtL and DoC Responsibilities will be discharged in accordance with (iaw) Annex A. As a minimum these orders **should** detail:

- a. The parachuting training and Competence required to conduct parachuting activity using foreign military AFE.
- b. How the RtL associated with parachuting with foreign military AFE will be managed so that an assessment of the ALARP and Tolerable position can be made.

¹ Refer to MAA02 – MAA Master Glossary.

² The use of "foreign military AFE" includes the associated ancillary equipment.

³ Refer to the Regulatory intent of RA 1200 – Air Safety Management.

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

**Acceptable
Means of
Compliance
1703(1)**

7. When using foreign military AFE from UK military-registered Aircraft, approval for use **should** be obtained from the Air System Type Airworthiness Authority (TAA)⁵ and Release To Service Authority (RAF). If attached foreign troops are involved, Duty Holders (DH) (as illustrated in Annex A) **should** confirm with the Parachuting Commander of those troops that they remain responsible for the RtL to their troops during the descent.
8. The Parachuting Commander within the Parachutist Front Line Command will seek AE ODH Suitably Qualified and Experienced Person (SQEP) direction and guidance.
9. Where the operation of foreign military AFE is regulated by both the UK MAA and the foreign National Authority; the most restrictive Regulation **should** take primacy.
10. The Parachuting Commander **should** ensure that Aerial Despatchers and Drop Zone Safety personnel are SQEP.
11. **Supervision of Parachuting.** The Parachuting ODH **should** ensure parachute operations, including Maintenance and packing, are supervised by a SQEP.
12. **Authorization of Parachuting.** The Parachuting ODH **should** ensure parachute operations, including Maintenance and packing, are authorized by SQEP.

**Guidance
Material
1703(1)**

Governance of Foreign Military Airborne Forces Equipment

13. **Supervision of Parachuting.** Some of the supervisory processes detailed in RA 2305⁶ may be considered suitable for the supervision of foreign military AFE activities.
14. **Authorization of Parachuting.** Some of the Authorization processes detailed in RA 2306⁷ may be considered suitable for the Authorization of foreign military AFE activities.
15. The MAA Regulatory Publications are specifically written with respect to Air Systems. Their application is equally suitable for aspects of foreign military AFE activities and to the Risk Management framework⁸ necessary to allow Aviation Duty Holder (ADH) / Accountable Manager (Military Flying) (AM(MF)), Parachuting ODH and other members of the Airborne Forces Community to ensure RtL is managed appropriately.
16. Fundamental to effective governance and Risk Management is a clear understanding of where the responsibility for the management of RtL associated with the parachuting activity is owned by a stakeholder eg Parachuting Commander, ADH or AM(MF) for the Aircraft.
17. It is essential that, throughout the parachuting activity, the Parachuting Commander understands their Responsibilities, communicates as required with each of the stakeholders involved and has robust orders and instructions relating to this activity.
18. Compliance with RA 1167⁹ is required for the use of chartered civilian Aircraft.

⁵ Where the Air System is not UK MOD-owned, Type Airworthiness (TAW) management regulatory responsibility by either the TAA or Type Airworthiness Manager (TAM) needs to be agreed within the Sponsor's approved model; refer to RA 1162 – Air Safety Governance Arrangements for Civilian Operated (Development) and (In-Service) Air Systems, or refer to RA 1163 – Air Safety Governance Arrangements for Special Case Flying Air Systems. Dependant on the agreed delegation of TAW Responsibilities TAM may be read in place of TAA as appropriate throughout this RA.

⁶ Refer to RA 2305 – Supervision of Flying.

⁷ Refer to RA 2306 – Authorization of Flights.

⁸ Refer to the Regulatory intent of RA 1200 – Air Safety Management, and RA 1210 – Ownership and Management of Operating Risk (Risk to Life).

⁹ Refer to RA 1167 – Contracting Civil-Registered Air Systems for Military Purposes.

Annex A

Foreign military AFE DoC and RtL DH Responsibilities

Parachutist	UK Personnel	UK Personnel	Foreign Armed Forces Personnel ¹⁰
Aircraft	UK military-registered	Non-UK military-registered*	UK military-registered
Individual with personal DoC^{11, 12} – on Aircraft / Parachute descent	Parachuting Commander	Parachuting Commander	Parachuting Commander of foreign troops
DH – on Aircraft	ADH / AM(MF)	Parachuting ODH (RtL)**	ADH / AM(MF)

The table above illustrates those Responsible for the management of the MOD's DoC and RtL DH responsibilities. The inclusion of the Parachuting Commander of foreign troop is to illustrate where those responsibilities are outside of the MOD and will be managed by that Commander iaw their own Regulations.

* Non-UK includes foreign military Aircraft and civil Aircraft. If civil Aircraft are chartered for parachuting activities, then guidance in RA 1167⁹, **should** be followed.

** The Parachuting ODH **should** ensure that the Aircraft is correctly configured for the parachuting activity and confirm that it is routinely used and authorized by the Aircraft's national or military aviation authority for such activity¹³.

¹⁰ Foreign troops responsibilities lie with their organic chain of command.

¹¹ "DoC Owner" refer to the individual responsible for managing the MOD's DoC for the personnel undertaking the specific activity.

¹² DoC as defined in JSP 815 Part 2. This includes the requirement to ensure the parachutists are trained and fit for the activity.

¹³ 1 Group has produced an Advice Note which can be used as best practice.

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