



25 March 2026

MAA/RI/2026/04 – Parachute Duty Holding Definitions

References:

- A. MAA/RI/2025/02 – Transitional Arrangements for the Regulatory Article 1700 Series (Airborne Equipment).
- B. RA 1701 – MOD-Approved Airborne Forces Equipment, Initial Issue.
- C. RA 1702 – MOD-Approved Aerial Delivery Equipment, Initial Issue.
- D. RA 1703 – Foreign Military Airborne Forces Equipment, Initial Issue.
- E. [MAA Request For Change Form](#).
- F. MAA03: MAA Regulatory Processes.

Issue

Following publication of the new RA 1700 Series (Airborne Equipment) and the 12-month transitional arrangement notified in Reference A, feedback from the Regulated Community (RC) has identified a need to clarify terms in use.

Scope

This Regulatory Instruction (RI) provides clarification of terms contained within References B, C and D.

Aim

The aim of this RI is to clarify the terms Parachuting Operating Duty Holder (ODH) and Parachuting Commander introduced by the RA 1700 Series.

Implementation

To be effective in line with the end of the transitional period of RA 1700 series role out, 3 April 2026, as detailed in Reference A.

Definition Clarification

Definitions relevant to the RA 1700 series are clarified as:

Parachuting ODH - An Accountable individual, who is at minimum a 2* Crown Servant, ► **Aviation Duty Holder** ◀ with formal delegated Responsibilities for actively managing Air Safety for operation of Airborne Equipment via an effective Air Safety Management System to ensure that associated Risk to Life is As Low As Reasonably Practicable (ALARP) and Tolerable within their defined Areas of Responsibility.

Parachuting Commander - A 2* Crown Servant who is in the direct Chain of Command of the unit participating in the activity. They ► **exercise Enhanced Risk Management (generic Duty**



Holding complementary to ◀ Duty of Care ▶ and in accordance with (iaw) JSP 815) ◀ for their troops throughout the activity.

▶ If the Parachuting Commander is referred to as a Parachuting ODH (iaw Section 5 to JSP 815), the term **generic** Parachuting ODH should be used. The two terms are distinct and will not be interchangeable in any way with an Aviation Duty Holding Parachuting ODH. ◀

Transitional Arrangements

Six-months following the end of the transitional period for the RA 1700 series, as detailed in Reference A, there will be a review of the RA 1700 Series in its entirety. Commencing in October 2026 the RC will be invited to provide comment.

Prior to that, the RC is welcome to submit a Request For Change (RFC) to the MAA Regulatory Publications using the RFC form (Reference E) in accordance with Reference F.

References B, C and D will be updated after this further consultation to incorporate the clarified definitions and additional Acceptable Means of Compliance for the Parachuting ODH and Parachuting Commander responsibilities.

Queries

Any observations or requests for further guidance on the content of this RI should be submitted by email to DSA-MAA-MRPEenquiries@mod.gov.uk

MAA Head Operating Assurance



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