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8.60 ENHANCED CLEANING PROCEDURES (COVID-19)

8.60.1 GENERAL INFORMATION

This supplement shall be inserted in the Flight Manual, in Section 8: ‘Supplements’ with the revisions record sheet amended accordingly.

Information contained herein supplements, or in the case of conflict, supersedes that contained in the basic Flight Manual. For Limitations, Procedures, and Performance Data not contained in this supplement, consult the basic Hot Air Balloon Flight Manual.

Issue 2 of this supplement consists of 4 pages.

8.60.2 LIMITATIONS

No change.

8.60.3 EMERGENCY PROCEDURES

No change.

8.60.4 NORMAL PROCEDURES

No change.

8.55.5 WEIGHT CALCULATIONS

No change.

8.60.6 BALLOON AND SYSTEMS DESCRIPTION

No change.

8.60.7 BALLOON MAINTENANCE, HANDLING AND CARE

8.60.7.6 Enhanced Cleaning Procedures (Covid-19)

8.60.7.6.1 General

This section provides recommendations for enhanced cleaning processes of baskets, burners and fuel cylinders in response to the Covid-19 outbreak.

8.60.7.6.2 Initial Cleaning of baskets

Before returning to service it is recommended that baskets (including pole covers) receive an initial clean in order to remove any pre-existing dirt or staining and to allow the efficacy of further cleaning to be more easily assessed. Marking or logging the position of non-removable stains may assist subsequent cleaning of the basket.

Suede and leather may be treated with a proprietary leather or suede care product to mitigate damage from subsequent cleaning.

8.60.7.6.3 Basket handles

To ease cleaning of basket handles a non-absorbent cover e.g. polythene sheet fixed around the handle with adhesive tape, or a removable washable cover may be fitted.

8.60.7.6.4 Sanitising of balloon equipment by isolation

Isolating the balloon equipment for an extended period of time, widely accepted to be 72 hours, should be sufficient to allow surfaces that have come in contact with the Covid-19 to become non-infectious.

8.60.7.6.5 Cleaning of baskets, sidewall cushions and trim using soap and water

Remove the fuel cylinders from the basket during cleaning or protect them from the soap and water by other means.

Remove or protect fire extinguishers, fire blankets, first aid kits and other items that may be damaged by water before cleaning.

Remove cushion floor pads from the basket before cleaning. Clean the upper surface of the cushion floor as described below and allow to dry before replacing into the basket.

Baskets may be cleaned with pure soap and water. A mixture of soap and water should be applied to the basket, ensuring that it is thoroughly wetted. Scrub with a brush to produce a foam then rinse thoroughly with fresh water.

Allow the basket to dry before further flight. Flight is permitted when wet, but leather basket trim and rawhide protection strips are more easily damaged when wet.

8.60.7.6.6 Cleaning of baskets, sidewall cushions and trim using DuoMax Cleaner Disinfectant

Remove the fuel cylinders from the basket during cleaning or protect them by other means.

Remove or protect fire extinguishers, fire blankets, first aid kits and other items that may be damaged before cleaning.

Spray DuoMax Cleaner Disinfectant onto the surfaces to be cleaned and wait for one minute. Wipe clean with a dry cloth.

Note that although DuoMax cleaner does not harm any of the materials used in basket construction its red colour and may cause staining on light coloured materials.

Note: Do not use DuoMax on Fuel Cylinders.

8.60.7.6.7 Cleaning of fuel cylinders and burners

Fuel cylinders, cylinder valves, and metal parts of burners may be treated using a solution of 60-80% isopropyl alcohol or ethanol in water. The alcohol solution should be sprayed onto the area to be treated using a hand sprayer and allowed to air dry.

Note that alcohol solutions will dissolve greases and lubricants from burners and cylinder valves. Regular lubrication of burner and cylinder valves is recommended (see Maintenance Manual).

Note: Alcohol solutions must only be used in a well-ventilated area. Appropriate PPE should be worn.

Fuel cylinders may be washed with a solution of pure soap in water. Remove the padded cylinder cover, and separate the outer cover and the foam padding. **Do not wash the foam padding.** Wash the cylinder cover and the cylinder with soap and water and rinse thoroughly with clean water. Allow the cover and cylinder to become completely dry before refitting the cover.

Fuel hoses should be cleaned using soap and water and rinsed thoroughly with fresh water.

8.60.7.6.8 Cleaning of balloon envelopes

Routine cleaning of balloon envelopes is **not** recommended.

The end of the control lines handled by the pilot may be washed. Note that **only** the end handled by the pilot should be washed and that this must be completed without removing the control line from the envelope. Wash the control lines using pure soap and water and rinsed thoroughly with fresh water. Allow the ends of the control lines to dry.

8.60.7.6.9 Cleaning after the presence of a suspected or confirmed case of COVID-19 or where local rules mandate the use of a disinfectant

If the cleaning is the result of a suspected or confirmed case of Covid-19; staff engaged in the cleaning must wear suitable PPE and follow applicable hygiene procedures. Disposable single-use cleaning materials should be used and waste materials produced during the cleaning should be disposed of appropriately.

The basket and its trim may be treated with DuoMax Cleaner Disinfectant as described in 8.60.7.6.6.

Other equipment (including the basket if DuoMax is not used) should be cleaned using soap, water and alcohol as described below.

The equipment should be cleaned with soap and water as described in 8.60.7.6.5 & 7 above and allowed to dry.

After cleaning the equipment should be sprayed with a solution of 60-80% of isopropyl alcohol or ethanol in water and allowed to dry.

Note: Alcohol solutions must only be used in a well-ventilated area. Appropriate PPE should be worn.

Note: Alcohol solutions are likely to discolour or otherwise adversely affect suede and leather trim. Regular treatment with proprietary leather or suede care product is recommended to mitigate damage from cleaning.

8.60.7.6.10 General

Commercial detergents are **not** recommended due to their uncertain composition. Many detergents contain salt or other additives which may corrode metal components.

Pure liquid soap may be bought commercially, e.g. DriPak Pure Liquid Soap or may be made by dissolving pure soap flakes or grated pure soap in water.

Use of a soap dispensing brush attached to a hose is suggested e.g. Hozelock 2602 or 2604, when used with a liquid soap.

Use of pressure washers is not recommended as the high-pressure water jet may aerosolise and widely distribute any contamination. The high-pressure water jet also has potential to damage the basket and other equipment.

Regular washing with soap and water may discolour leather and suede. Regular treatment with a proprietary leather or suede care product may help to mitigate this damage.