

The technical content of this document is approved under the authority of EASA.21J.140 (C547)

7.3 VELCRO RIP PANELS

7.3.1 General

This supplement shall be inserted in the Maintenance Manual, in Section 7: 'Supplements' with the revisions record sheet amended accordingly.

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

7.3.2 Envelope Repairs

No change.

7.3.3 Basket Repairs

No change.

7.3.4 Fuel System Repairs

No change.

7.3.5 Instrument Repairs

No change.

7.3.6 MAINTENANCE SCHEDULE

7.3.6.5.2 Deflation System (additional)

Component	Check / Inspect / Record	Pass/Fail (✓)/(x)
Velcro (Rip Panel)	Inspect visual appearance and check function	
Free Load Tapes	Check length of free load tapes	

Notes:

7.3.6.6 Inspection Criteria/Techniques

7.3.6.6.1 Envelope Structure (additional)

Velcro rip panels: The fabric adjacent to the Velcro may become worn due to the stiff edge of the panel rubbing the fabric against the ground. Additionally the stitching of the fabric adjacent to the Velcro may become damaged by the Velcro hooks. See Section 7.3.6.7 for checking the free tape lengths.

Workpack No.	CN	Inspection Date	Inspectors Signature/No.
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7.3.6.7 Crown Tape Dimensions: Velcro Rips

This check ensures that the crown tapes are shorter than the radius of the Velcro rip panel. If the tapes were longer than the rip panel radius, the Velcro would be stressed and would be likely to open in flight.

7.3.6.7.1 Circular Velcro rips

1. Mark the centre point of the circular patch in the centre of the rip panel.
2. From the centre point in the direction of each load tape, mark out the radius 'R' using the appropriate value from Table 6.2. These points should be permanently marked with a felt tip pen or other means.
3. With the Velcro correctly in place ask an assistant to hold each load tape on the envelope side of the Velcro. Ensure that the relative lengths of the Velcro panel and the free tapes are not distorted.
4. Hold the free load tape and the panel straight together, with no slack, but no excessive tension. The inside edge of the crown ring should match the radius mark in step 2. Repeat for each load tape.
5. If the free tape is too long by more than 10% of 'R' it must be unstitched and re sewn. Free load tapes which are too short present no danger, although amounts greater than 0.5 'R' would merit investigation.

Table 6.2: Velcro Rip Crown Tape Dimensions

Type	Radius 'R'	
	cm	inch
O-31	20	8
O-42	22	8.5
O-56	24	9.5
O-65	28	11
O-77	30	12
O-84	30	12
O-105	33	13
O-120	33	13
O-160	37	14.5
A-105	33	13
A-120	33	13
A-140	37	14.5
A-160	36	14
A-180	33	13
A-210	36	14
A-250	36	14
A-300	36	14

7.3.6.7.2 Rectangular and Triangular Velcro Rips

Rectangular and triangular rip panels are normally only fitted to special shape balloons.

The length of the load tape should be checked against the corresponding fabric length. The load tape must be shorter than the corresponding fabric by at least 5 % (load tape length \leq 0.95 fabric length). If the load tapes are too long they must be shortened.

Free load tapes that are too short present no danger although lengths \leq 0.8 fabric lengths should be investigated.

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