



SAFETY NOTICE **N0 23 - 01**

To: All NZPIA Affiliated Operators
Subject: High Altitude Skydiving Operations
Compliance: Informational
Date of Issue: 14 March 2023
Compliance due: Ongoing

This Safety Notice is issued following a review of documents outlining best practices for Skydiving Operations between 14 000ft AMSL and 22 000ft AMSL. Relevant documents attached.

The PIA (www.pia.com) published a document on 21 March 2022 requesting a voluntary stand down period for skydiving operations above 17 999ft AMSL for a maximum of 12 months. The stand down period was requested to enable the PIA to research and develop best practices for skydiving operations above that height.

The NZPIA was made aware of this document and after discussing it with a working group of interested parties, the procedures already in place were deemed sufficient. As such the industry continued facilitating jumps up to 20 000ft AMSL as prescribed under CAA Part 105.27.

On 25 February 2023 the PIA released TB-263 Technical Bulletin as their High Altitude Skydiving Operations - Best Practices Guidelines. This document has identified a range of hazards/risks and practices not previously considered within the NZPIA.

According to the NZPIA current 149 Certificate, we are responsible for conducting high altitude training courses. As such, and in light of the new information contained in TB – 263 an urgent review of the NZPIA High Altitude Training Course has been requested. It is the aim of the NZPIA CEO to complete this review within 60 days.

The NZPIA recommends that all operators currently conducting operations above 17 999ft AMSL familiarize themselves with TB – 263 including reference materials and documents. We further recommend an urgent review of equipment and procedures, also paying attention to:

- Training of personnel
- Training equipment used
- Operating limits of parachuting equipment
- Operating limits of supplementary oxygen systems
- Risks and mitigation of Hypoxia
- Risk and mitigation of Altitude Induced Decompression Sickness

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