



1. Effectivity

All ATSO-C1003 Rescue/Retrieval Strops

2. Purpose

To clarify use and application of Rescue/Retrieval Strops.

3. Background

Rescue Strops were originally designed for retrieval of persons from the water in rescue situations. They were designed as an alternative to using 3 or 5 point harnesses which are problematic to don in a water environment. A separate version was developed to lift persons who may be suffering hypothermia.

ATSO-C1003 Rescue/Retrieval Strop refers to AS/NZS 1891.1:1995 Amdt 4 Retrieval Strap as the base standard. AS/NZS 1891.1:1995 defines a Retrieval Strap as “an upper torso harness designed for the attachment of a line in a rescue situation”.

A Rescue strop (excluding the Hypothermic version) requires the occupant to be conscious and compliant, and requires active participation from the occupant to ensure safe use. The occupant must follow directions correctly from a trained operator throughout the winch.

4. Recommendations

As a Rescue Strop requires active participation by an occupant who is not formally trained in its use and may likely be in a highly stressful situation, the following points should be considered prior to use of the strop:

- 1) whether life is at imminent risk;
- 2) the state of the person to be winched, particularly whether the rescuee will remain conscious and coherent during the winch process;
- 3) the potential for the person to remain compliant with winching brief;
- 4) alternative methods and devices to recover the person; and
- 5) whether the risk of falling from the device would not result in further serious injury or death.



AIRWORTHINESS BULLETIN

Rescue Strops

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5. Enquiries

Enquiries with regard to the content of this Airworthiness Bulletin should be made via the direct link e-mail address:

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