

ADVANCED PACKER COURSE SYLLABUS

Aim

The aim of this course is to qualify people as Advanced Packers, allowing them to inspect and pack reserve parachute piggyback systems (excluding Tandem equipment) of the appropriate type as per the manufacturers' and BPA instructions.

Note:

Initially, AP candidates will undertake an Advanced Packer Grade (S) covering square reserves only. A single (R) rating for rounds only is not possible. Tandem equipment ratings (T) are not covered by this course.

Course Duration

- The course is held over a minimum period of four days.
- The examination will not necessarily be at the end of the instruction period but must take place within 12 calendar months from the end of the course.

Candidate Requirements

- Must be a full BPA Member
- Must hold a BPA Approved Packing Certificate and have been a BPA member for at least 18 months

Course Instructors and Examiners

- Rigger Examiners or Advanced Riggers may instruct and examine the course syllabus.
- Maximum of three candidates per instructor; with all instructors present and available during all teaching and practice sessions

N.B. 1 Advanced Riggers are to run their first courses with a Rigger Examiner and must have attended a "Methods of Instruction" lecture on a BPA Instructors' Course or be able to demonstrate good instructional experience and background

N.B. 2 On completion of the first course with a Rigger Examiner, the course report will include a recommendation or otherwise for the AR to run future courses. This will be submitted to the Riggers Committee, for the BPA Office to record on the list of those qualified to run Advanced Packing Courses

Establishments

- All courses are to be run in an environment with facilities suitable to teach and examine good Advanced Packing practices.
- BPA Affiliated Parachute Training Organisations (PTOs) wishing to run Advanced Packer Courses must notify the BPA office at least 14 days prior to the course. The BPA Riggers' Committee will be informed of the course(s) at the next meeting.
- Those wishing to run a course at a location other than BPA Affiliated PTOs must apply to the Rigger's Committee for permission, giving details of facilities etc.
- All courses must be held under current BPA requirements and guidelines.

Initial Training Course Syllabus

For the rating types chosen:

1. BPA Operations Manual requirements
2. Safety notices and information
3. Equipment compatibility and pack volume study
4. Documentation, including packing cards, inspection check lists and packing logs
5. Packing tools selection and safety requirements
6. General Rigging and assembly
7. Canopy and container inspection techniques and reports
8. Inspection of AAD and RSL installations
9. Contamination of materials including fabric tensile strength testing and acid mesh
10. AAD requirements
11. Closure loop replacements
12. Packing demo
13. Packing lessons and practice

Post Training Course Information

After successfully completing an Advanced Packer training course and prior to the examination, candidates will work under the direct supervision of a current BPA Parachute Rigger or above. The supervising Parachute Rigger will countersign all the relevant paperwork and is responsible for all work carried out.

During the end of training course debrief, it is the responsibility of the instructing rigger to emphasise the importance of good coaching and lots of practice during the training period prior to the candidate attending the examination.

Examination Courses

When the candidate is confident in their packing ability they may attend the examination phase as below.

Initial Exam Course - for (S) rating

- The examination will start with a written test and a review of the candidate's reserve packing log.
- Examination for an initial rating will consist of a minimum of four reserve repack tests.

Four reserve inspection and repack tests with different types of equipment to include the following:

- a) Complete assembly of a system from separate container and reserve canopy.
- b) 1 AAD installation - no machine stitching required/allowed
- c) 1 fitted with an RSL
- d) 1 Pop Top type fitted with AAD
- e) 2 with damaged closure loops including a pop top type

Conversion Course – addition of round rating AP(R)

- The examination will start with a written test for the round rating and a review of the candidate's reserve packing log for reserves.
- Final examination for the conversion course will consist of a minimum of two round reserve inspection and repack tests. These tests will be with different types of equipment to include at least the following:
 - a) A complete assembly of a round system from separate container and reserve canopy.
 - b) 1 Pop Top fitted with an AAD

Course Reports

- A completed Form Number 175 must be submitted to the BPA office and the Riggers' Committee on completion of the initial training course.
- Following the examination phase, Form 208 must be submitted to the BPA office and the Riggers' Committee. These must be sent by the examining Rigger and will include the AP grade that the candidate has been awarded.

Limitations of work

- Advanced Packers grade (S) are cleared for all assembly, inspection and reserve packing on square reserves, to include fitting AADs (except Tandem equipment)
- Advanced Packers Grade (R) are cleared for all assembly, inspection and reserve packing on round reserves, to include fitting AADs
- Advanced Packers are not cleared for any work that requires sewing machine stitching

Currency and Records

- Advanced Packers must keep a printed log of all reserves packed
- The renewal form will be signed annually by an Advanced Rigger or Chief Instructor who must be satisfied that the holder is current and up to date with the latest packing related developments and techniques (see BPA Form 302 – Requirements and guidelines for Renewing Advanced Packer Ratings).