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INTERNATIONAL PARACHUTING COMMISSION TECHNICAL AND SAFETY COMMITTEE Chairman's Report IPC Plenary Meeting, Jachranka (Poland) on 26 - 30 January 2005

The objectives of the IPC Technical and Safety Committee are:

- To co-ordinate FAI Member countries' activities to further the development of the technical and safety aspects of parachuting throughout the world.
- To promote international standards and medical requirements for sport parachuting.
- To assemble, analyse and disseminate such information and statistics on parachuting activities in the FAI Member's countries as can contribute to the improvement of equipment, training methods and to parachuting safety.
- To provide a forum for the exchange of information and discussion of mutual parachuting safety problems.

The IPC Technical and Safety Committee has standing authority to collect, store and process data and information relevant to parachuting safety. All IPC Members and their Delegates are obliged to provide all data requested by the Committee. The Technical and Safety Committee has standing authority to publish such information, as it deems relevant to the promoting of parachuting safety. The role of the Committee is advisory.

2004 have been a quiet year for the Technical and Safety Sub-Committee. The chairman has had no questions or requests on the Sub-Committee's work or work not done.

In 2002 the Committee presented the booklets for the "International Certificates of Proficiency". This standard document and is available from FAI headquarters in Lausanne, and can then be issued by the individual parachuting associations of each country.

The T&S Committee still believes that the Annual Safety Survey is a most valuable publication for everybody involved in the development of safer parachuting. The research this year was once again very well performed by Liam McNulty of Ireland. Three of the countries which responded for 2001 did not respond for 2002, while five countries which did not respond for 2001 did so for 2002. The questionnaire, which elicited 33 responses, was sent to 63 countries. A positive trend in responding nations will make the report more able to pinpoint any trends. The Safety Survey and the AAD Survey will be presented at this meeting. Again, we urge you to complete the annual IPC Safety Survey, if possible, right here at this meeting. It helps to pinpoint problem areas and facilitates the formulation of any remedial intervention. The Committee are grateful to Ms Faye Cox for her efforts to try to get Asia member countries to take part in the IPC Safety Survey.

The Committee was asked in the open meeting in Lisbon, to present our suggestion for recommendations for wing loading, particular for the inexperienced parachutists.

The T&S Sub-Committee has received several requests from parachuting nations to offer advice and assistance on technical matters. These were dealt with on an ad hoc basis. Members are reminded to make use of this facility and to inform their associations that this advisory service is available to all.

In 2004 the committee has dealt with the following questions:

- A warning about "bogus" parachutists certificate was sent to IPC nations. The fraud was discovered during an investigation of a parachuting fatality.

- The Committee has helped Slovakia by requesting details from IPC countries of reserve life. Mr McNulty will have the results of this survey on the CD-ROM which will be handed out.
- The committee has discussed whether to include aircraft related fatalities in the Safety Survey. This question will be raised at the open meeting.
- Members of the Committee have given our advice on choosing between AADs designed for student vs. expert use on students, to the Finnish Aeronautical Association.
- The Committee has been asked to consider 'International Declaration of Fitness to Parachute', as a proof of every parachutists physical conditions.

The Technical and Safety Committee thanks all delegates and others that support our by answering relevant surveys. I personally would like to thank Mr Liam McNulty for his work this, and prior years.

Oslo, November, 2004

Knut M. Ekerhovd
Chairman IPC Technical and Safety Committee