

# TANDEM NEWS



A PUBLICATION BY STRONG ENTERPRISES  
FOR TANDEM INFORMATION

11236 Satellite Blvd. Orlando, FL. 32837  
Tel 407-859-9317 Fax 407-850-6978  
Tandem@strongparachutes.com

**TANDEM EXEMPTION  
ISSUED TO STRONG  
ENTERPRISES**

NO LONGER “EXPERIMENTAL”!  
MAJOR STEP FORWARD FOR  
TANDEM JUMPING AND  
CENTERS USING THE DUAL  
HAWK TANDEM SYSTEM.

After almost two years of negotiating with the FAA, Strong Enterprises finally received a new tandem Exemption 6474C with several major changes.

**The History.**

When Strong Enterprises tandem exemption was issued on June 26th, 1996, it did not reflect many of the changes that Strong Enterprises had requested. That began a year and a half struggle to improve tandem jumping by seeing that these changes were in fact granted. Although there was much talk about tandem coming off exemption status by being written into FAR part 105, that has not happened. Strong Enterprises pushed the FAA hard with a civil litigation suit. After establishing our tandem program’s positive safety record through over 14 years experience, Strong Enterprises felt justified in seeking relief from the “experimental” designation status. After considerable negotiations and mediation conferences, the FAA finally consented to make several changes that Strong Enterprises felt most important.

**Major changes:**

The term “experimental” has been deleted, the “volunteer experimental parachute test jumper” is now considered a “volunteer-adult member of the public” or “student-jumper”. The term “representative” has been deleted, the Tandem Instructor is now regarded as a “Strong Certified Tandem Instructor”.

**What does it mean to you?**

This change gives the Tandem Instructor more authority in performing tandem jumps. They are in charge of the tandem jump. They do the training, they check the equipment, they make the jump with the student; it stands to reason that they need to be placed on the exemption and assume the responsibility. It also stands to reason that they should be paid for their efforts.

**How long.**

Exemption is effective until June 30, 2000. Because of the length of time that these negotiations took, the effective expiration date is the year 2000.

**Who is involved.**

This exemption is between the FAA, Strong Enterprises and you the Strong Certified Tandem Instructor. This exemption is your legal approval to make tandem jumps. There is no other third party, club or association involved. What started out as a 12 page document in 1984 has now been fine tuned to four pages.

**What is Next?**

Dual Hawk Owners on record will be receiving a packet of information that will include:  
a) New tandem waiver.  
b) Recommendations for operations.  
c) Strong Enterprise requirements.

**Explanation of BULLETIN 22.**

Strong Enterprises has taken a proactive step to ensure public safety and the safety of our certified tandem instructors by issuing Service Bulletin 22, on February 20th, 1997, effective May 20th, 1997.

The purpose of Bulletin 22 is to assure that Dual Hawk Systems more than 8 years old are still safe to use, and components that Strong Enterprises has not tested or approved as being compatible are not being used in these systems.

Dual Hawk Tandem Systems that are not in compliance with Bulletin 22 are considered by Strong Enterprises to be un-airworthy. Therefore, the TSO on that system is void and any tandem jumps made on these systems are made in violation of FAR 105.43(a). Any Strong Enterprises certified tandem instructor who enters into an aircraft with the intention of making a tandem jump, and the Dual Hawk System he intends using on that jump is not in compliance with Strong Enterprises Bulletin 22, has

automatically voided his Strong Enterprises tandem instructor certification and that jump will be made in violation of FAR 105.43 (a) and Strong Enterprises' tandem exemption.

The appropriate FAA FSDO offices will be notified or that serial number, location, and owner of all Dual Hawk Tandem Systems that are not in compliance with Bulletin 22.

In consideration of the liability exposure of USPA, a copy of notices related to Bulletin 22 will be forwarded to USPA.

Compliance with Bulletin 22 is quite simple:

1. Use only manufacturer approved components in your Dual Hawk system.
2. If a Dual Hawk system is more than 8 years old return it to Strong Enterprises for inspection, refurbishing if needed, and recertification as airworthy.

Recertified components are marked:

1. Harness/Container: Labels sewn on the horizontal back strap of the passenger harness, inside the main container, and on the front left reserve riser.
2. The main canopy: Label sewn onto the tail seam.
3. The reserve canopy: Label sewn onto the tail sewn.

### Other news

Tom Novatka of Skydive Illinois, just went over the 2,000 tandem jump mark. He still has the love of teaching and has great people skills, repeat customer ask for him by name.

### New Email addresses:

Bill Morrissey or Chuck McHugh: Tandem@strongparachutes.com  
When ordering: Sales@strongparachutes.com  
The President: TedStrong@strongparachutes.com

Don't forget to check the Web Page:  
[www.strongparachutes.com/p0000191.htm](http://www.strongparachutes.com/p0000191.htm)  
will take you direct to the Tandem page.



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ORLANDO, FL 32837

Tel (407) 859-9317

Fax (407) 850-6978

E-mail: Tandem@strongparachutes.com

[www.strongparachutes.com](http://www.strongparachutes.com)

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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

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