

Title:	Stripwound Housings for Ultralight BRS Systems
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Introduction:	The purpose of this Bulletin is to alert owners of certain BRS rocket-deployed parachute systems of the availability of a factory upgrade.
Affected Products:	All BRS units installed on ultralight, ultralight-like, or kitbuilt aircraft which use the strip-wound activating housing are affected. The strip-wound housing can be identified by its bright silver or chrome appearance with a series of parallel circular wraps. This steel housing material is approximately one-half inch in diameter and can be compressed slightly by holding it at two points and pushing the points toward one another. (See "Non-Affected Products")
Non-Affected Products:	Any BRS unit with the braided steel activating housing is not covered by this Bulletin. Braided housing appears to be constructed of fine diameter wire finished into a tubular shape. This steel housing material is approximately one-half inch in diameter and will not compress when holding it at two points and pushing the points toward one another. Also not affected are any BRS units with black, smaller diameter housing of approximately one-quarter inch diameter.
Background:	BRS has become aware that some applications of the affected housing material may have been improperly installed. When this is true, the pull forces at the activating handle end of the system may rise to a point where some individuals are unable to exert sufficient force to activate the system if desired during an in-flight emergency.
	Although BRS maintains that a properly installed system should not produce a high pull force, the company cannot inspect every system in use, and other installation verification efforts (for example: Asking owners to send installation photos to the company) have not proven 100% successful.
Recommendations:	BRS has created an upgrade that may address a large percentage of those systems which might exhibit a high pull force due to their improper installation. Owners of affected products should return the housing to the factory for an upgrade fitting. Some units in operation will allow the housing to be safely removed for shipment back to the factory, which makes this a simple solution for those owners. Other units may not have user-removable housings, in which case the BRS system and rocket must be returned to BRS.

Owners can determine if they have the user-removable housing by examining the launch tube (usually black) which contains the rocket (silver or red). If the launch tube has a small (one-half inch) plastic cap near the end of the launch tube where the activating housing attaches, then the housing is removable. Units without this plastic cap are not user-removable.

Owner Actions:

Owners of affected products should return their housing or entire BRS unit, as stated above, to BRS accompanied by full payment.

The upgrade has a retail price of \$69.95, however, all owners who purchased their emergency parachute system before July 1, 1996 may obtain this upgrade for the special price of \$48.75, plus \$10 shipping and handling (\$53 S&H if a whole unit is shipped).

For owners who have a non-removable housing to return to BRS, it is imperative that BRS provide a box with labels for safe shipment of Hazardous Goods (a live rocket motor).

For Further Information:

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