

Guidelines For Skydiving – Air Based Adventure Tourism Activities

For Registration with Sri Lanka Tourism Development Authority

1. INTRODUCTION

A "Skydiving" is defined as the descent of a person to the surface from an aircraft in flight with the use of a parachute during all or part of descent.

2. BASIC OPERATING PROCEDURE / GUIDELINE

- a) These procedures apply to all jumps except made under military orders and of in-flight emergencies.
- b) All participants in skydiving should be familiar with the international and local rules and regulations of same.

2.1.Drop zone requirements

- a) Areas used for skydiving should be unobstructed, with the following minimum radial distances to the nearest hazard:
 - i. solo students and A-license holders-330 feet
 - ii. B- and C-license holders and all tandem skydives-165 feet
 - iii. D-license holders-40 feet
- b) Hazards are defined as towers, buildings, open bodies of water, telephone and power lines, highways and clusters of trees covering more than 9,850 square feet.
- c) Ground-to-air communications (e.g., radios, panels, smoke, lights) are to be available on the drop zone during skydiving operations.

2.2. Wind Condition

- a) Maximum ground winds for all solo Divers will be
 - i. 14 mph for ramp-air canopies
 - ii. 10 mph for round reserves
- b) Maximum ground wind for licensed skydivers is unlimited

2.3.Minimum opening Altitudes

Minimum container opening altitudes above the ground for skydivers are:

- i. Tandem jumps-4,500 feet Above Ground Level (AGL)
- ii. All students and A-license holders-3,000 feet AGL
- iii. B-license holders-2,500 feet AGL
- iv. C- and D-license holders-2,500 feet AGL

2.4. Pre-jump requirements

- a) The appropriate altitude and surface winds are to be determined prior to conducting any skydive.

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- b) Pre jump equipment checks to be carried out by the instructor or jump master according to the basic safety requirement.

2.5. Landing hazards.

- a) Open water, cluster of trees, power lines and high wind landings must follow the special instructions according to the basic safety regulations.

2.6. Equipment Emergency Procedures

- a) Total or partial malfunction of equipment, the emergency procedure must be carried out according to the basic safety regulations.

3. MANDATORY EQUIPMENT

3.1. Parachute equipment

- a) When performing night jumps, each skydiver must display a light visible for at least three miles from the time the jumper is under an open parachute until landing.

3.2. Special altitude equipment and supplementary oxygen

- a) Supplementary oxygen availability on the aircraft is mandatory on skydives made from higher than 15,000 feet mean sea level (MSL).

3.3. Equipment (Automatic Activation Device)

- No person is authorized to conduct skydive without automatic activation device.
 - a) The participants to be aware of the operating manual regarding information on activities of Automatic Activation Device (AAD).

3.4. Exiting the aircraft.

Pre-planned exit procedure and jump heights must be briefed by the instructor or Jump master before board in to the air craft and jumpers must strictly adhere to same

4. SAFETY AND RISK MANAGEMENT

Safety is accomplished by reducing the risk factors involved in skydiving activity

- a) Acquire knowledge of operation and make a continuing effort to improve the knowledge
- b) Practice and prepare for both expected and unexpected conditions
- c) Evaluate the risk factors and mitigation of same.
- d) Accurately evaluate personal capabilities and limitations
- e) Stay alert and aware of surrounding conditions.

Tandem skydiving is becoming intensive on all Drop Zones and represents the most popular method of completing a first skydive for many participants

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5. GENERAL INFORMATION

- a) Cloud clearance and visibility requirements for skydivers is refer in section 105.17 in Federal Aviation Regulation (FAR).
- b) The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) hold the joint responsibility for cloud clearance and visibility on the jumper and the pilot.
- c) Instructor assistance must obtain in planning the landing activity as per the conditions of the operating day.
- d) Overview of aircraft spotting and determining the best opening point and jump-run procedures
- e) Calculations from wind forecasts
- f) Observation and discussion of previous jumpers 'canopy descents' options.
- g) Pre-flight briefing with the pilot to discuss the correct jump path and exit points
- h) Verifying the area below is clear of clouds and other aircraft before jumping according to the basic safety requirement.

5.1. Medical requirements

- a) All persons engaging in skydiving must:
 - i. Possess a valid Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) Third-Class Medical certificate;
 - ii. or A certificate of physical fitness for skydiving from a registered physician;
 - iii. If the person is under the influence of either alcohol or drugs should not participate in parachute jump.

5.2. REQUIRED DOCUMENTS / APPROVALS

- a. Sky diver should obtain clearance from Civil Aviation Authority (CAA)
- b. Comprehensive public liability insurance cover.
- c. Operations Manual Authorized by Civil Aviation Authority (CAA).