

SAFETY ADVISORY

Issued by Angus Pinkerton Chairman Flying and Safety Committee 30th April 2024

Aluminium components: Brummel hooks & other parts

All owners of paragliders or hang gliders using aluminium components should read, digest and take action on the contents of this notice.

A pilot flying a paraglider at a coastal site recently reported a failure of the aluminium Brummel hook (sometimes called sister hooks) that connected his paraglider's speed bar. This pilot flew regularly at the coast, and when checking found that the hooks on both sides had been badly corroded, almost certainly as a result of repeated exposure to sea air. The connection point was enclosed in a neoprene sheath and the damage was not apparent until the covering had been peeled away.



These hooks are commonly used by several paragliding manufacturers, however it is not only these items that can be affected.

Periodic and thorough checking of all parts that are concealed is crucial for flight safety. Contact with salt water or even sea air can cause significant corrosion to aluminium components, particularly if they are in contact with steel. Similar corrosion and even failure has been reported in the past on hang glider wires and where bolts pass through aluminium tubes.

Aluminium carabiners generally contain a steel pivot pin and sometimes a steel spring; any corrosion of these parts may not be visible.

All pilots should take the time to closely examine their Brummel hooks, carabiners, and any other components that may be affected. If you fly at the coast, the safe working life of these items will be significantly reduced. If you have any doubts they should be replaced.