

Written by the Technical Committee of the film and video industry's joint sector-based working group and produced by the Commission de la santé et de la sécurité du travail du Québec.



ASSOCIATION DES
PRODUCTEURS DE
FILMS ET DE
TÉLÉVISION DU
QUÉBEC

Skydiving

1. Whenever a parachute jump is planned, the producer must appoint a skydiving coordinator with one of the following certificates:
 - a valid exhibition jump rating from the Canadian Sport Parachuting Association (CSPA);
 - a valid PRO rating from the United States Parachute Association (USPA); or
 - a valid equivalent certificate issued by a parachuting organization other than the CSPA or USPA that meets the standards established by the CSPA or that has been certified in writing by Transport Canada.

Any person who will perform a parachute jump must also have one of these certificates.
2. All parachute jumps must be performed in compliance with Transport Canada regulations on aviation and after having obtained from it a Special Flight Operations Certificate—Parachuting.
3. If parachute jumps are performed above or within a built-up area or an assembly of people:
 - the skydiving coordinator must give Transport Canada and the safety coordinator a scale diagram of a 300-m perimeter in all directions around the planned landing zone. The diagram must specify: the type of surface (grass, asphalt, etc.), the hazards, obstacles, etc., crowd control measures, the location of the landing zone supervisor, etc.;
 - the parachutist must be able to land at least 10 m from people inside the landing zone and not pass within 35 m above the crowd;
 - the landing zone must have a 25-m radius or measure 25 m by 40 m (the longest side facing the wind); only essential personnel are allowed within this zone;
 - people and equipment inside the landing zone must be mobile, meaning that they can move quickly if necessary.
4. When an airplane or a helicopter is used for dropping parachutists, the aircraft and the services of a pilot must be obtained from a commercial air carrier. The pilot must be familiar with dropping parachutists, flight manoeuvres with doors removed, practice jumps and jump cancellation signals. Before the flight, the pilot must analyze the load distribution inside the aircraft to ensure that the position of the parachutists at the time of the jumps will not compromise the aircraft's stability during the flight.
5. A copy of all required certificates or authorizations must be given to the producer and safety coordinator at least one week before filming or recording.
6. Before the parachute jump is performed:
 - the production crew must be informed about the planned activities and each person's role. Also, a dry run must be carried out on the ground;
 - the skydiving coordinator must determine whether the production crew who are unnecessary for the filming or recording or other people on the site can be within the landing zone;
 - the skydiving coordinator and the parachutist must be given all the time necessary to check the equipment used (accessories, wardrobe, etc.). The parachutist has the final word on equipment use. Note that all parachutes must be folded by a certified parachute rigger with a valid certificate issued by the CSPA;
 - the skydiving coordinator must determine whether the meteorological conditions (visibility, wind, cloud cover) are suitable or not for the planned jump, taking into account the dimensions of the landing zone, the type of parachute, the number of parachutists, or the type of stunt performed.
7. It is forbidden to perform a parachute jump when the wind speed measured on the ground in the planned landing zone is more than 28 km/h.
8. The use of equipment considered as dangerous (i.e., firearms, pyrotechnics) must be approved by Transport Canada. Authorization must also be obtained from Transport Canada for takeoffs and landings in inhabited zones.

9. The skydiving coordinator must postpone or cancel the planned activities if the people on the ground or in the air are at risk or if Transport Canada regulations are contravened. He must inform the safety coordinator as soon as possible about it.
10. Parachute jumps above high voltage lines or above water must be very carefully prepared. When the planned landing zone is within one kilometre of a body of water:
 - the skydiving coordinator must ensure that each parachutist is wearing personal flotation gear capable of supporting his weight and equipment;
 - the safety coordinator must plan for rescue boats (one per parachutist) and the necessary equipment;
 - the rescue team must be made up of at least the boat pilot and one first aider. One or both must have valid certificates from recognized organizations (such as the Red Cross and the Royal Life Saving Society Canada) in first aid and in treating victims of near-drowning and in aquatic first aid;
 - before the parachute jump, the instructions for the recovery of parachutists must be given to the boat pilot as well as to the members of the production crew.
11. If filming or recording is at night, the landing zone must be inspected during the day and the skydiving coordinator must participate in choosing the lighting in order to determine the minimum lighting necessary in the landing zone.
12. During the parachute jump, radio communication must be constantly maintained between the airplane carrying the parachutists and only one person on the ground, namely a parachutist with a class B certificate of proficiency from the CSPA, designated by the skydiving coordinator and assigned only to this task. Also, smoke or panels must be used to clearly indicate the landing zone.

Definitions

Exhibition jump rating

To obtain this rating, the person must have a parachutist's class C certificate, have completed more than 400 jumps, have successfully completed a written examination on exhibition jumps and do 50 jumps annually.

Certified parachute rigger with a valid certificate issued by the CSPA

Parachute rigger capable of checking parachutes, supervising other riggers, repairing parachutes, modifying and producing parachute components, and packing reserve parachutes.

Class B certificate of proficiency

To obtain this certificate, the person must have a parachutist's class A certificate, have completed more than 100 jumps, and have completed training in night jumps and jumps into water.

References

Transport Canada, tel.: 514 633-2714.

Canadian Sport Parachuting Association (CSPA), tel.: 613 749-0152; 746-0060.

Guideline 22 on the Use of aircraft.

Guideline 9 on First aid.

Guideline 24 on Work on or near water.

Note. – The information contained in this guideline is not exhaustive and does not replace current standards, laws and regulations.