



Designation: F2993 – 13

Standard Guide for Monitoring Weather Conditions for Safe Parasail Operation¹

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1. Scope

1.1 This guide covers monitoring weather conditions for safer parasail operation.

1.2 This guide details parasail operators having weather-monitoring devices and keeping a weather log on board their vessels.

1.3 *Units*—The values stated in inch-pound units are to be regarded as standard. The values given in parentheses are mathematical conversions to SI units that are provided for information only and are not considered standard.

1.4 *This standard does not purport to address all of the safety concerns, if any, associated with its use. It is the responsibility of the user of this standard to establish appropriate safety and health practices and determine the applicability of regulatory limitations prior to use.*

2. Terminology

2.1 Definitions:

2.1.1 *interested party, n*—court of confidant jurisdiction, law enforcement agency, or membership/association official to which the operator falls under.

2.1.2 *sustained wind speed, n*—a wind speed determined by averaging the observed wind speed in the area of operation rounded to the nearest whole mile per hour over a 1 to 10 min period.

3. Significance and Use

3.1 Every commercial parasail operator shall have a hard mount or handheld visual weather monitoring device. VHF alone is not acceptable.

3.2 Each vessel Master shall maintain a weather log in accordance with the procedures in Section 4.

3.3 Wind Conditions:

3.3.1 Commercial parasailing is prohibited when the current observed wind conditions in the area of operation include a sustained wind speed of more than 20 mph, wind gusts of a

difference of 15 mph greater than the sustained wind speed, the wind speed during gusts exceed 25 mph or rain or heavy fog results in reduced visibility of less than 0.5 mile, or when a known lightning storm comes within 7 miles of the parasailing area.

3.3.2 Hawaiian Islands region: due to the consistent nature of the offshore trade winds, operators in this region may operate under a 5 mph allowance to the sustained wind speed for offshore wind conditions only. Onshore wind conditions remain the same in accordance with 3.3.1. Therefore, commercial parasailing may occur in sustained offshore wind speeds up to 25 mph.

3.4 *Sea Conditions*—It is understood that sea conditions can cause additional loading of the parasail tow line.

3.4.1 Operators in lakes, intercoastal areas, and rivers shall not operate in sea conditions or a wave height that exceed 3 ft. Attention should be given to the specific body of water in these cases as these locations are typically protected areas. Therefore a wave height or water surface condition that meets or exceeds 3-ft waves or chop may be produced by wind that exceeds the 20 mph threshold described in 3.3.

3.4.2 Operators in offshore areas shall not operate in sea conditions that exceed a wave height of 4 ft, unless wave height and period are in accordance with the following calculation: 3 s of period for every 1 ft of wave height (for example, 4 ft = 12 s, 5 ft = 15 s, etc.). Wind speed and payload shall also be taken into consideration at all times of operation. The best evidence of wind and wave conditions within the flying area shall be determined by the vessel Master and may differ from a weather service report.

3.5 In no case shall parasail operations be conducted in weather conditions that exceed the manufacturer's specified limitations of the equipment being used.

4. Procedure

4.1 A weather log may be in any form with weather information recorded manually or electronically with the use of, for example, a notebook, notepad, or use of electronic recording methods, or a combination thereof. A weather log and the recorded weather data must be retained for a minimum period of one year by the vessel operator. Each weather log entry shall include: wind direction, wind speed, wave height, sky conditions at all times prescribed in 4.2. In addition, when

¹ This test method is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee F24 on Amusement Rides and Devices and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee F24.65 on Parasailing.

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