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## Tandem Cross-Training Certification Form

### Applicant Qualifications

Before beginning this training, an applicant must:

1. Currently possess or at one time been issued a USPA Instructional Rating or foreign equivalent
2. Have logged at least 500 ram-air jumps and 3 years of experience in sport parachuting
3. Hold a current FAA medical or currently approved medical certificate of physical fitness for skydiving
4. Hold current USPA D license (expert) or foreign equivalent
5. Be at least 18 years of age
6. Applicant must: possess a current tandem rating from another manufacturer, national federation tandem rating (other than USPA), or military tandem rating; 25 logged jumps using the system transferring from; complete a Sigma Tandem ground school; and complete a minimum of three Sigma Tandem jumps.

This box must be filled in by computer

Full Legal Name \_\_\_\_\_

Name to appear on card *First* \_\_\_\_\_ *Last* \_\_\_\_\_ *Age* \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Country \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Date of First Jump \_\_\_\_\_ Number of Jumps \_\_\_\_\_

Instructional Rating(s) *(please attach copy)* \_\_\_\_\_  Current  Expired

USPA D-License/Equivalent *(please attach copy)* \_\_\_\_\_

FAA Medical Certificate # *(please attach copy)* \_\_\_\_\_ Home Drop Zone \_\_\_\_\_  
Foreign or Military equivalent accepted

## ***Passenger Briefing***

**All passengers - student or experienced - must be at least 18 years old and have completed an uninsured United Parachute Technologies, LLC Assumption of Risk Agreement after viewing the Tandem Vector / Sigma Waiver Video.**

Experienced passengers who accompany tandem instructor applicants must be briefed by the tandem instructor before jumping. This briefing must include:

1. Emergency exits procedures
2. The tandem instructor applicant must signal the passenger that he or she has deployed the drogue by giving a “thumbs up” sign with the right hand. If failing to do so, the passenger must deploy the drogue by 7000 ft.
3. If the drogue has not been released by 5000 ft., the passenger should release it and thus deploy the main canopy
4. If the main canopy is not deployed by 3500 ft., the passenger should make every effort to deploy the reserve

This briefing shall include practicing of the above procedures on the ground while completely geared up. The use of “Passenger Emergency Handles” are recommended during training jumps.

## ***Jumps 1 - 3 are proficiency jumps***

Applicant acts as tandem instructor while carry an experienced jumper in front. Jump 3 must have an examiner or tandem instructor on front. This passenger must have been briefed in the operation of the Sigma Tandem or Tandem Vector by the examiner.

### ***Training Jump 1 Procedure***

1. Stable exit from above 7,500 ft
2. Deploy drogue within 5 seconds after exit and perform a full system handles check
3. While maintaining a heading, perform three practice drogue release pulls and one practice reserve ripcord pull
4. Pull drogue release handle by 5500 ft
5. Perform a good landing within **50** meters

### ***Training Jump 2 Procedure***

1. Stable exit from above 7,500 ft
2. Stable drogue deployment within 5 seconds after exit and perform a full system handles check
3. Perform at least two alternating 360-degree turns and demonstrate heading control
4. While maintaining a heading, perform three practice drogue release pulls and one practice reserve ripcord pull
5. Pull drogue release handle by 5500 ft
6. Perform a stand-up landing (wind permitting) within **50** meters of the target

### ***Training Jump 3 Procedure*** *(On training jump 3, the passenger must be a current tandem examiner or instructor)*

1. Unstable exit from above 10,500 ft. Must regain control within 10 seconds then perform a full system handles check
2. Stable free fall to 7500 ft. Perform at least two alternating 360-degree turns and demonstrate heading control
3. Stable drogue deployment at 7500 ft and perform a full system handles check
4. Pull drogue release handle by 5500 ft
5. Perform a stand-up landing (wind permitting) within **35** meters of the target.

Some of the above jumps may be repeated until the applicant meets the performance goals as determined by the examiner. Log only the cross-training jumps in the spaces below. Two extra spaces are available if needed. (If the applicant is unable to achieve satisfactory performance within five jumps, the examiner must fill out refusal/dismissal criteria form and submit to UPT. The candidate may not continue with training and may not participate in another course without making an additional 25 tandem skydives.)

## Applicant Training Record

Jump	Date	Location	A/C	Altitude	Delay	Distance	Pass Wt.
Examiner Comments & Signature: Name of Passenger:							
Examiner Comments & Signature: Name of passenger:							
Examiner Comments & Signature: Name of passenger:							
Examiner Comments & Signature: Name pf passenger:							
Examiner Comments & Signature: Name of passenger:							

**Name of Examiner (Please Print)** \_\_\_\_\_

**“I verify that cross-training jumps have been completed.” Examiner Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

### ANNUAL RENEWAL PROCEDURES

Sigma Tandem Instructor Ratings must be renewed annually. To apply for renewal, **you must have made at least 25 tandem jumps within the preceding 365 days, and review emergency procedures within the preceding 90 days.** It is mandatory to review the Sigma Tandem Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) and Emergency Procedures (EPs) located in the Sigma Manual prior to making any currency jumps. This information should be reviewed every 90 days whether you are current or getting recurrent. (Annual renewal with UPT is highly encouraged, though optional if current with USPA or foreign equivalent) Once these requirements are met, please:

1. Have your jump requirements verified (via logbook) and have the appropriate Tandem Instructor or Examiner Renewal form signed by either an uninsured United Parachute Technologies, LLC Sigma Tandem Examiner or Sigma Tandem owner.
2. Send the form, along with a photocopy of your FAA Medical Certificate (or equivalent), a photocopy of your USPA instructional ratings (or equivalent) to uninsured United Parachute Technologies, LLC. at [sheryl@uptvector.com](mailto:sheryl@uptvector.com). A payment link will be sent by email once the application is approved.

**Note:** A 1<sup>st</sup> class medical certificate must be renewed every six months. A 2<sup>nd</sup> class medical certificate must be renewed once a year. A 3<sup>rd</sup> class medical certificates expire every five years if it was issued before the certificate holder turned 40 years old. If the certificate holder was 40 years of age or older at the time of issue, the certificate expires every 2 years. Expirations occur at the end of the calendar month that the certificate was issued. **Make sure you send a copy of a CURRENT medical certificate or currently approved medical certificate of physical fitness for skydiving.**

We recommend making copies for your records in case this form is lost in the mail. Please contact uninsured United Parachute Technologies, LLC if you have not received your renewal license or a response within four weeks. Any tandem jump you make while not currently rated with uninsured United Parachute Technologies, LLC is in violation of federal law and is subject to a maximum fine of \$1000.00 per incident. If you have not received your Sigma Tandem Instructor Card within 30 days of form submission, you are not considered current and are not authorized to use the Sigma Tandem system.

## **CURRENCY TRAINING**

Currency Training consists of a minimum of one (1) solo jump with the tandem system, and one (1) tandem jump with an experienced jumper acting as a student/passenger. The experienced jumper must first be briefed on how to respond to tandem emergencies. In addition, each experienced skydiver acting as passenger must watch the Sigma Waiver video and fill out a Waiver. Passenger emergency handles may be used. During the jump, the applicant must make a stable exit from at least 7,500 feet with drogue deployment within ten (10) seconds and have an open main canopy by 4,500 feet. The applicant must demonstrate the ability to control heading during drogue-fall by making at least one 360-degree turn and perform practice pulls to all operating handles. Landing must be a stand-up (wind permitting) within 150 feet of target. These two jumps must be witnessed and signed off by an uninsured United Parachute Technologies, LLC Sigma Instructor Examiner or Sigma Owner. If you are an owner or examiner, you cannot sign for yourself.

## **SOLO JUMP PROCEDURES**

Review operation of the complete tandem system. Remember, you can experience every possible tandem malfunction made except student interference, so be prepared. Exit the aircraft, get stable then deploy the drogue. Perform handles checks, starting with visually inspecting drogue inflation over your right shoulder. Then proceed on to physically touching each handle as prescribed in the Sigma Manual. Once that is complete, continue with practice pulls of the main deployment handles. This jump is intended to familiarize you with the system and how it operates. Do not combine this jump with any other skydiving discipline, i.e., "RW," etc.

## **CURRENCY REQUIREMENTS**

In addition to yearly recertification, Sigma Instructors are expected to maintain currency during the year by covering all tandem emergencies while in a hanging-harness simulating canopy emergencies, and/or while wearing a Sigma tandem system (standing on the ground, attached to a simulated student) while simulating drogue and aircraft emergencies.

1. If any currently rated Tandem Instructor has not made a Sigma tandem jump in the preceding 90 days, they must make a minimum of one satisfactory Sigma tandem jump with an experienced jumper acting as a student prior to jumping with actual students.
2. If any currently rated Tandem Instructor has not made a tandem jump within the last 180 days, he/she must complete Recurrency Training before jumping with actual students.
3. If any rated Sigma Instructor has not made a tandem jump in the preceding **two years**, they must attend a complete Sigma tandem training course covering the classroom/ground school (SOPs and EPs) and make a minimum of three satisfactory re-certification jumps. These jumps can be found on the Tandem Cross Training Certification Form and are to be with a currently rated tandem instructor acting as student under the supervision of an examiner.

## ***Sigma Tandem Instructor Operator Criteria***

I agree to conform to all the Sigma Tandem Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) and Emergency Procedures (EPs).

Int. \_\_\_\_\_

I agree to perform handles checks in the manner prescribed by the Sigma Manual on every tandem jump that I make using the Sigma Tandem system.

Int. \_\_\_\_\_

I agree to forfeit my UPT and USPA tandem instructor rating through either suspension or revocation of rating if I am found to have violated the SOPs and EPs of the Sigma tandem system.

Int. \_\_\_\_\_

I have read the Sigma Manual and am fully knowledgeable of the system SOPs and EPs.

Int. \_\_\_\_\_

I will fill out the Annual Sigma Handcam Safety Checklist Document and submit to UPT prior to using handcam on Sigma Tandem jumps. (Can be emailed by instructor directly to sheryl@uptvector.com)

Int. \_\_\_\_\_

I have provided a minimum of 25 logged tandem jumps as pilot in command on the tandem system that I am making a transition from. The logged tandems must accompany this paperwork for the issuance of my rating.

Int. \_\_\_\_\_

***Processing can take up to TWO WEEKS. Please plan accordingly.***

**X**

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Signature of Sigma Instructor*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Date*



## Annual Sigma Tandem Hand Camera (Handcam) Safety Checklist

- **I do not intend to use Handcam** (If my use of Handcam changes, I will submit this document, fully filled out by email to sheryl@uptvector.com before I begin to use Handcam on tandem jumps.)
  - 1) Int. \_\_\_\_\_  
(If number one (1) was initialed and you do not intend to use a handcam, proceed to the bottom for signature)
- I have read and will comply with the Minimum Requirements for performing Handcam tandem jumps (page 2).
  - 2) Int. \_\_\_\_\_
- I am a current Sigma tandem instructor. (If NO, get recurrent on Sigma tandem FIRST).
  - 3) Int. \_\_\_\_\_
- I have successfully demonstrated emergency procedures on the ground (or in a hanging harness) wearing the Handcam set up that I am using while attached to a simulated student.
  - 4) Int. \_\_\_\_\_
- I am aware that conducting systems handle checks is **REQUIRED** on every tandem skydive that I make, including any tandem skydiving wearing a Handcam set up.
  - The system check consists of:
    - Visually Inspect Drogue inflation after drogue set over right shoulder.
    - Physically touch the left main drogue release.
    - Physically touch the right main drogue release.
    - Physically touch and observe the cutaway handle.
    - Physically touch and observe the reserve handle.
    - Physically touch and observe the RSL.
  - 5) Int. \_\_\_\_\_
- I am aware that failure to conduct system handles checks in this order, on Sigma tandem jumps is grounds for immediate tandem rating suspension and/or revocation.
  - 6) Int. \_\_\_\_\_
- I am aware that placing my Handcam arm in a position that a tandem student can grab it creates an increased potential risk of student interference.
  - 7) Int. \_\_\_\_\_
- I have reviewed, and I am current on student interference Emergency Procedures.
  - 8) Int. \_\_\_\_\_
- I will not use any extendable pole mechanism on my head or hand camera set up.
  - 9) Int. \_\_\_\_\_
- I will complete my emergency procedures, to include activation of the reserve handle on every EP scenario, regardless of whether I am wearing a Handcam assembly or not.
  - The attempt to film emergency procedures with left arm extended, instead of using left arm to perform emergency procedures, has led to multiple out of sequence EP scenarios.
  - 10) Int. \_\_\_\_\_

Print Name \_\_\_\_\_ confirm if using Handcam (circle one) YES / NO

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**(This form is only valid for 12 months from the signature date on form)**

# The Minimum Requirement to Perform Handcam Tandem Jumps

Due to the potential for distraction and the added complexity during hookup and exit, the minimum recommendations for Sigma instructors who wish to use a handcam setup are:

- An absolute minimum of 200 tandem skydives or has attended an approved handcam training program by an examiner. Questions regarding approved programs should be referred to the current UPT Tandem Program Director
- Sigma Tandem currency (the first jump back after a seasonal layoff should NOT be a Handcam jump.)
- The TI should demonstrate emergency procedures with the Handcam with a simulated student attached and full gear on the ground, or in a hanging harness.
- Before taking a student using Handcam, the instructor should make 2 jumps with a currently rated Tandem Instructor to feel how it affects flying and to be comfortable with the operation of the camera.
- Complete the Annual Sigma Handcam Safety Checklist form

**These requirements are the absolute minimum, the instructor should make as many practice jumps as needed to build a safe level of proficiency.**

## The necessary mindset for performing Handcam tandems:

Any instructor performing handcam video on a tandem should realize that they are a **tandem instructor first**, and a videographer a “distant” second. The video should be the very last priority on the tandem skydive.

***“A bad video of a good skydive is preferable to a good video of a bad skydive.”***

From in-aircraft hookup procedures, through the exit, the freefall and the parachute ride, full attention should be given to the tandem skydive and the video should only be interwoven into established procedures.

The instructor should also remember that it is the student’s video. They want to see themselves in it, not the instructor goofing around and grandstanding for the entire freefall.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_