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17.8.2025



To: FAI Jury

From: Jason Dodunski, Australia / Ali Asker, Kuwait

Re: Protest Regarding Non-Compliant Wingsuit Modification by Competitor Alexey Galda

Date: 17 August 2025

I. INTRODUCTION

On 17 August 2025, a formal complaint was submitted pursuant to GS 6.2 and SC5 4.7.3.2 regarding the legality of a modified wingsuit being used by competitor Alexey Galda. That complaint was declined by the Judges Panel, which determined that the modification constituted a permissible fit adjustment. We respectfully disagree with that conclusion.

The modification at issue, the addition of an extra cell, is not a fitment adjustment but a prohibited aerodynamic alteration under the 2025 ISC Competition Rules for Wingsuit Flying. This protest therefore seeks a determination by the Jury that the modification is non-compliant and that the suit must not be used in competition.

II. FACTUAL BACKGROUND

It has been observed and confirmed that Mr. Galda's wingsuit contains an extra cell. A cell is not a cosmetic or comfort feature: it is a structural element that shapes the wing and changes airflow over the suit. This component was not included in the manufacturer's stock design and was introduced after production.

At the time of filing this protest, I have contacted the manufacturer to obtain a direct confirmation that this additional cell constitutes an aerodynamic modification. Given the strict two-hour time limit to protest, I am submitting this protest without waiting for their reply. The manufacturer's response will be provided to the Jury as soon as it is received, and will serve as further evidence that the added cell alters airflow and wing behaviour, bringing it squarely within the prohibition of Rule 3.2.2.3.

III. APPLICABLE RULES

The 2025 ISC Competition Rules for Wingsuit Flying (Version 2.0) provide:

- **3.2.2** — *"Modifications relative to the wingsuit manufacturer's design are not permitted, except those explicitly permitted in the competition rules."*
- **3.2.2.1** — *"Modifications to improve fit to the competitor's body are permitted."*
- **3.2.2.2** — *"Modifications to integrate the main lift web into the suit's front body panel are permitted, provided that emergency handles remain attached to the main lift web, are exposed, and are accessible."*
- **3.2.2.3** — *"Modifications that alter the aerodynamic properties of the wingsuit are not permitted."*

Additionally, under GS 6.2 and SC5 4.7.3.2, competitors are entitled to file protest regarding rule compliance, and officials are obligated to inspect equipment and issue rulings.

IV. APPLICATION OF THE RULES TO THE FACTS

A. Rule 3.2.2 — General Prohibition.

Rule 3.2.2 prohibits modifications unless expressly allowed. Only two narrow exceptions exist. The cell addition does not fall under either.

B. Rule 3.2.2.1 — Fit Adjustments.

Permissible fit adjustments are those that improve conformity of the suit to the competitor's body (e.g., tailoring, seam adjustments). Adding a cell is not a fit improvement. It is a structural, aerodynamic change.

The Judges Panel characterized the extra cell as an "arm/wrist fitment" within the meaning of Rule 3.2.2.1. Respectfully, this interpretation is untenable. The rule allows modifications "to improve fit to the competitor's body," which must be read as tailoring adjustments to existing material so the suit conforms more closely to the competitor's form — for example, seam adjustments, tapering, or cuff tightening. An extra rib or cell is not a tailoring change; it is a new structural element that creates lift-bearing surface. While the arms and wrists are part of the body, adding a structural rib there does not merely adjust fit but instead changes airflow and profile. This places the modification squarely within the prohibition of Rule 3.2.2.3.

C. Rule 3.2.2.2 — Lift Web Integration.

This exception is limited to integrating the harness main lift web into the front body panel, provided safety handles remain exposed and accessible. A cell has no relation to harness integration.

D. Rule 3.2.2.3 — Aerodynamic Alterations.

The cell directly alters aerodynamic properties by reshaping the wing surface, changing camber, and redirecting airflow. It also changes the angle at which the wingtips sit, enabling either greater sweep for stability or a downward-facing winglet. Neither outcome reflects the manufacturer's design intent. Rule 3.2.2.3 does not turn on whether the effect is beneficial or harmful; any change to aerodynamic properties is prohibited. This is the precise type of modification barred under Rule 3.2.2.3.

E. Anticipated "Safety" Justification.

It may be suggested that the cell was added to improve deployment safety. However, the rules do not recognize "safety" as a general justification for aerodynamic alterations. The drafters listed only two exceptions, fit adjustments and lift web integration, and did not include safety-based aerodynamic modifications. To imply such an exception would open an unbounded loophole undermining competitive parity.

Moreover, if deployment safety were the concern, this could have been addressed by competing in a suit without wing-tip extensions, as many competitors do, rather than introducing a new aerodynamic element. This demonstrates that the cell was not the necessary or permissible means of addressing safety concerns.

V. COMPETITIVE FAIRNESS CONSIDERATIONS

The prohibition on aerodynamic modifications exists to preserve a level playing field by requiring all competitors to fly suits consistent with the manufacturer's original design. Allowing one competitor to introduce a new cell structure would confer an unapproved advantage, distort the results, and encourage incremental modifications outside the regulatory framework.

It should also be noted that during this same competition, competitors were required to remove inconsequential additions such as tape in high-wear areas or stickers applied to the suit. These items had no material impact on aerodynamics, yet were still deemed impermissible. By contrast, the modification at issue here is far more significant: it involves the introduction of new material, an extra rib or cell, that was never part of the manufacturer's original design or stock configuration. Permissible "fit" adjustments involve working with **existing material** by removing, tightening, or reshaping it so the suit conforms more closely to the competitor's body. Adding new structural material is categorically different: it does not refine fit, it creates a new aerodynamic surface that changes shape, camber, and airflow in ways the manufacturer never intended. Put simply, fit adjustments take material away, while this modification adds material that was never there to begin with. In light of this interpretation, it would be inconsistent and unreasonable to enforce removal of purely cosmetic or protective tape, while permitting the wholesale addition of a structural element that modifies aerodynamic properties. This disparate treatment underscores the necessity of Jury intervention to restore both consistency and fairness.

In light of this interpretation, it would be inconsistent and unreasonable to enforce removal of cosmetic or protective tape, while permitting the addition of a structural element that alters airflow. This disparate treatment underscores the necessity of Jury intervention to restore both consistency and fairness.

VI. CONCLUSION AND REQUESTED ACTION

For the foregoing reasons, the cell addition is non-compliant under Rule 3.2.2.3, does not qualify under Rules 3.2.2.1 or 3.2.2.2, and violates the principle of competitive fairness.

Accordingly, I respectfully request that the Judges Panel:

1. Inspect Mr. Galda's wingsuit for compliance;
2. Issue a written determination that the extra cell is a prohibited modification; and
3. Prohibit the use of the modified suit in competition.

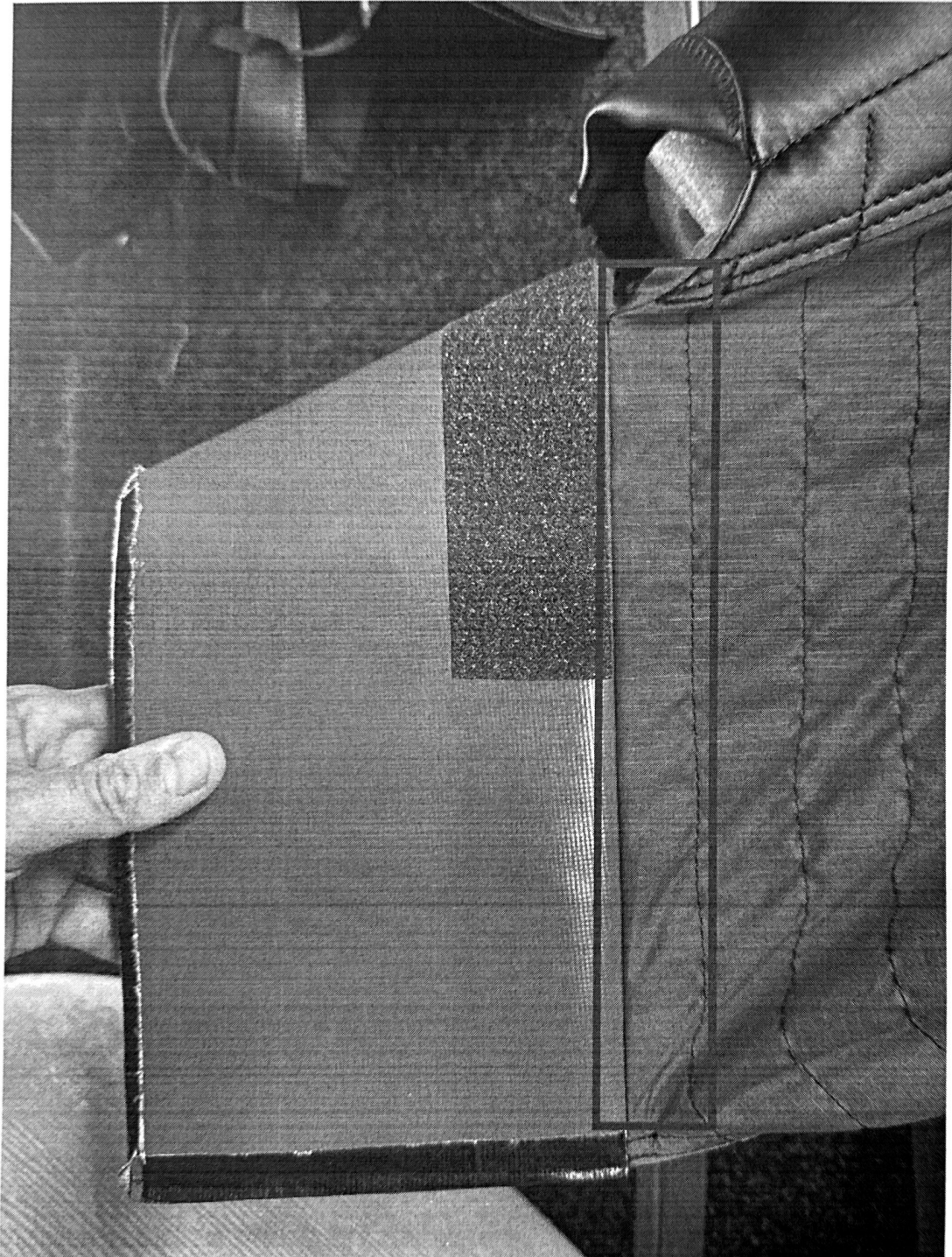
This protest is submitted in good faith to ensure consistent rule enforcement and the integrity of the competition.

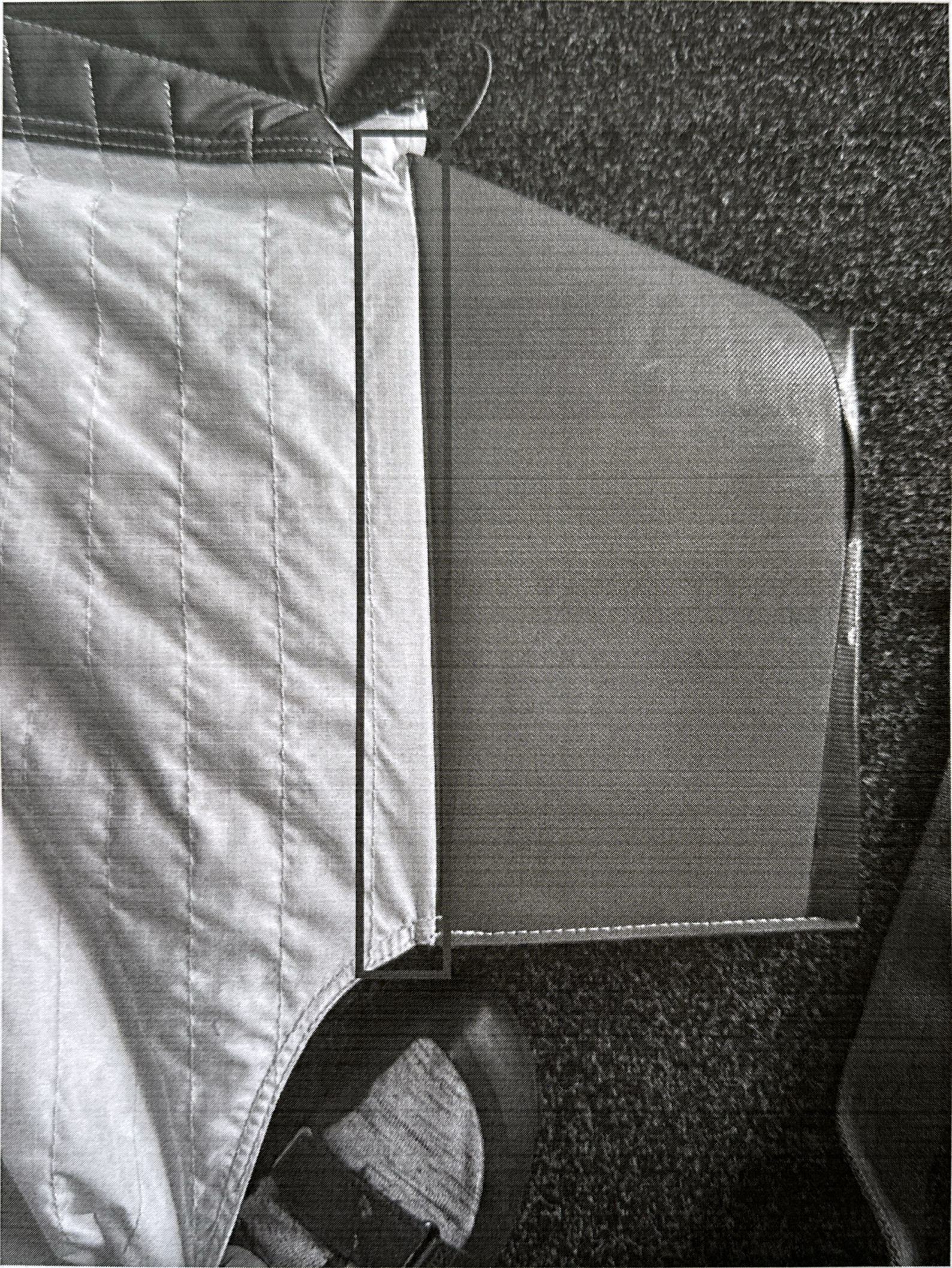
Respectfully submitted,

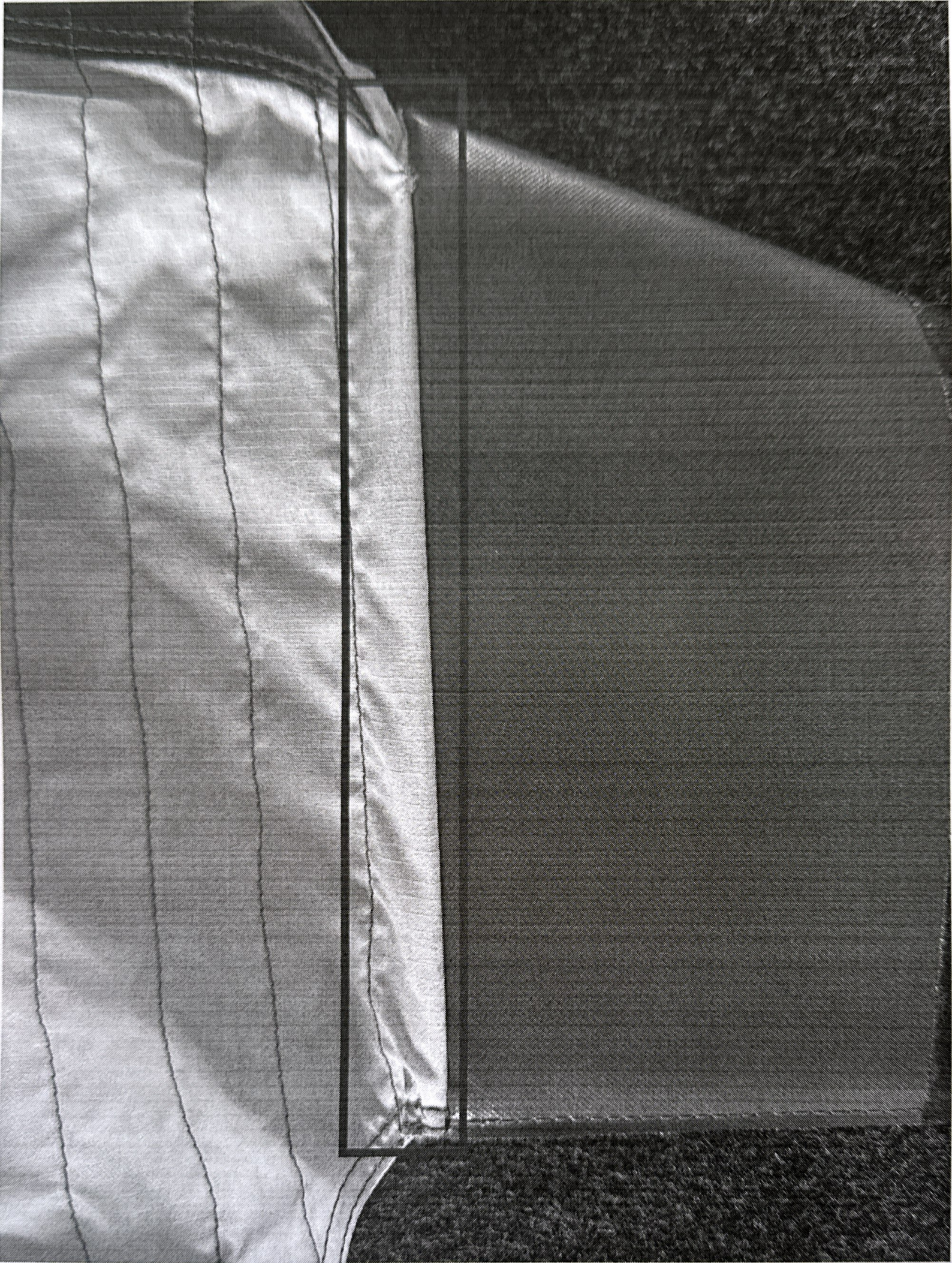
Jason Dodunski, Australia
Ali Asker, Kuwait

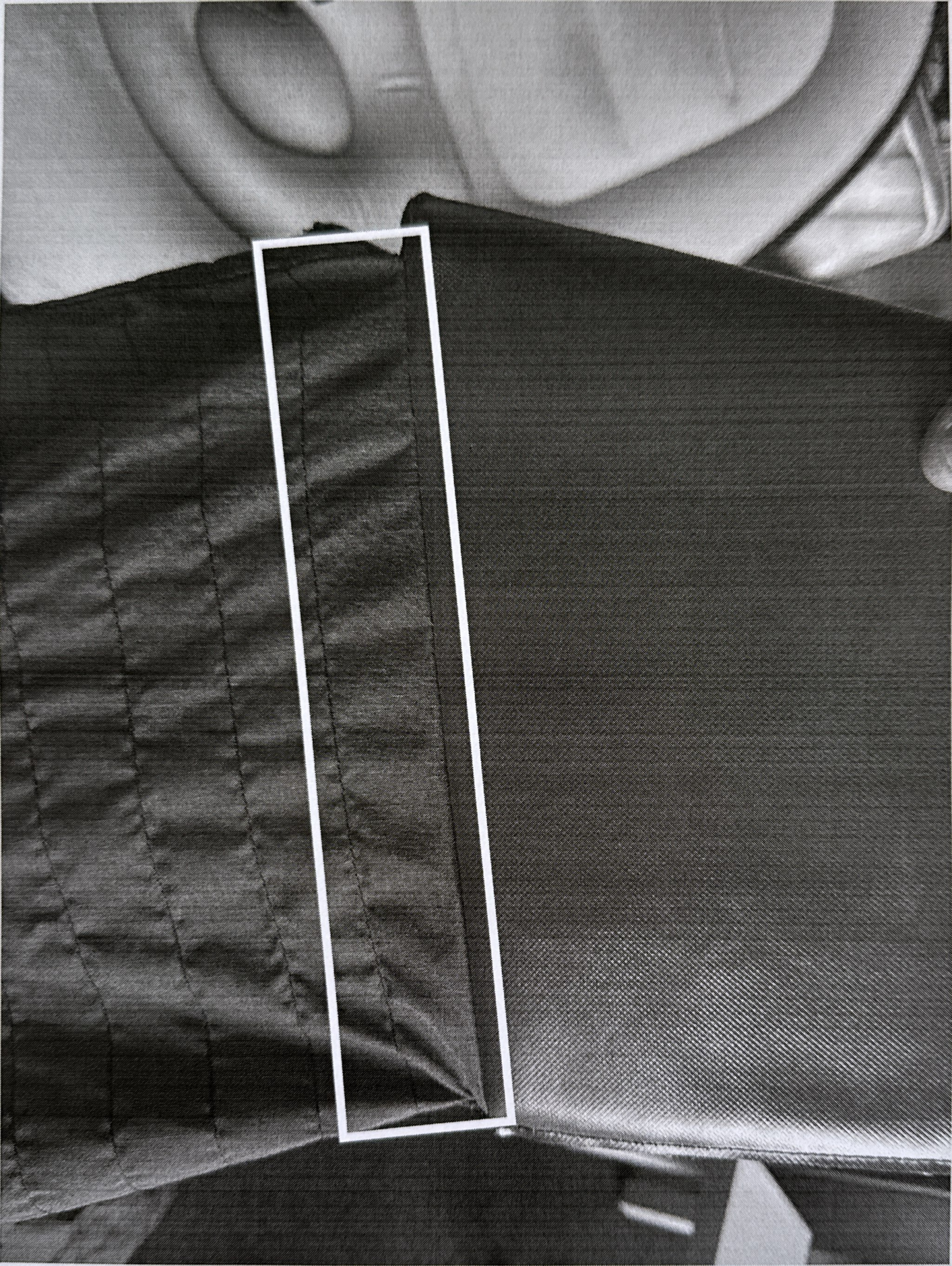
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ali Asker', with a stylized flourish underneath.

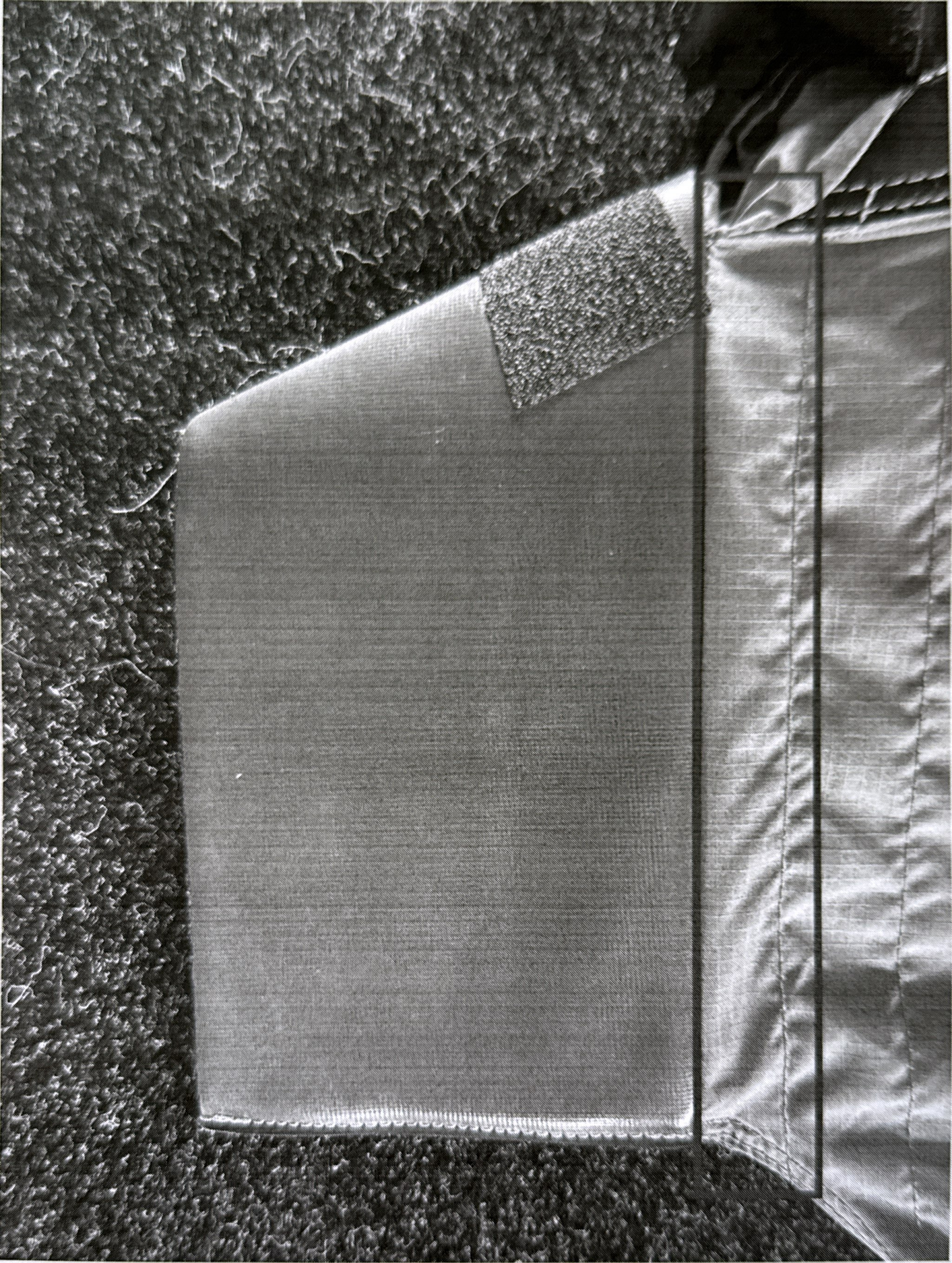
Examples of “manufacturer's design”

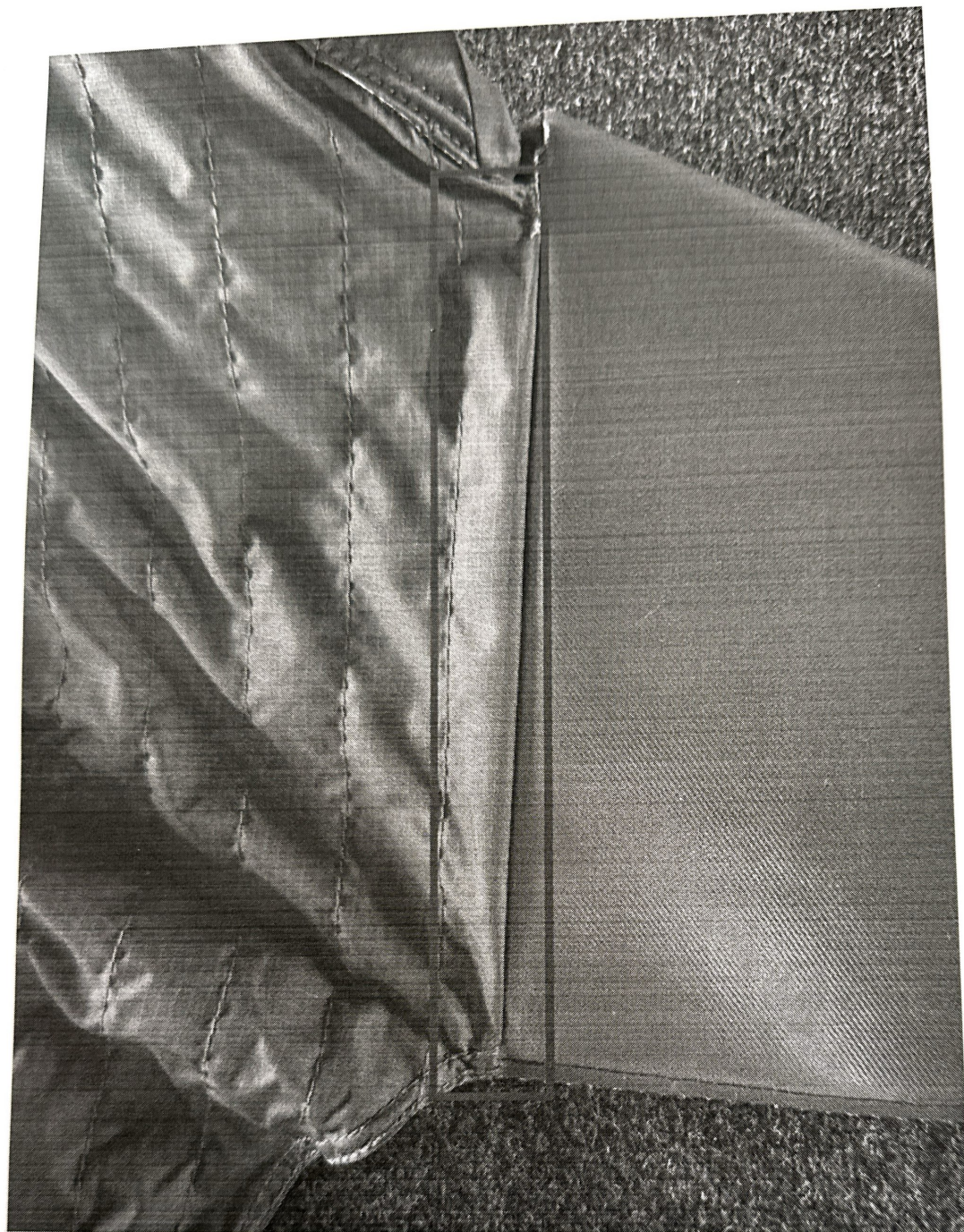






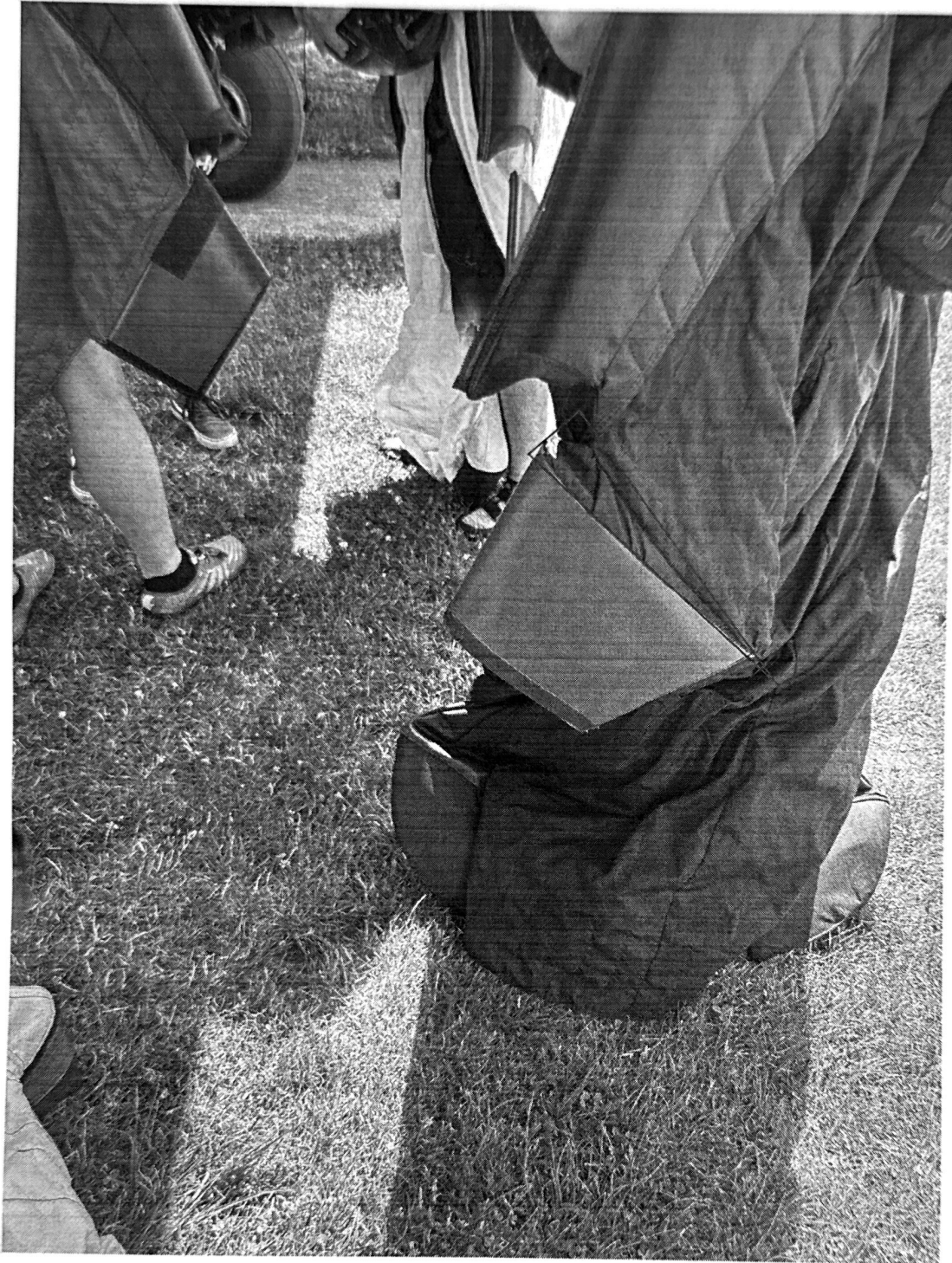








Example of “modified” “manufacturer's design”



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