



FAA
Aviation Safety

SPECIAL AIRWORTHINESS INFORMATION BULLETIN

SAIB: CE-11-44

Date: July 13, 2011

SUBJ: Fuel: Cylinder Strap Installation

This is information only. Recommendations aren't mandatory.

Introduction

This Special Airworthiness Information Bulletin (SAIB) informs registered owners/operators of all hot air balloons, certificated under Title 14 of the Code of Federal Regulations (14 CFR) part 39, of an airworthiness concern.

At this time, this airworthiness concern has not been determined to be an unsafe condition that would warrant airworthiness directive (AD) action under 14 CFR part 39.

Background

An FAA accident investigation of a hot air balloon accident revealed improper securing of the propane tank in the basket. The upper tank restraining strap installation did not secure the tank from up or down movement. During landing, the tank became dislodged and landed on the foot of a passenger. Inspections of six other tank installations on different manufacturers' balloons revealed similar general lacking of positive tank restraint and variations of tank restraint strap installations.

Recommendations

The FAA recommends owners/operators of all hot air balloons assure the tank installations are accordance with their manufacturer's operating manual and to also assure that the upper tank strap installation prevents any vertical movement of the tank.

For Further Information Contact

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