



FAA
Aircraft Certification Service

SPECIAL AIRWORTHINESS
INFORMATION BULLETIN

SUBJ: 25-20 Passenger Compartment Equipment - Periodic Inspection of
Model 5150 and 5500 Seat Leg Saddles

SAIB: SW-09-05
Date: January 22, 2009

This is information only. Recommendations aren't mandatory.

Introduction

This Special Airworthiness Information Bulletin (SAIB) informs you, a registered owner or operator, of an **aircraft with certain Weber Aircraft, LLC Model 5150 or 5500 seats installed** of the potential that leg saddles may crack. These seats are approved to Technical Standard Order (TSO) C39b and/or TSO-C127/C127a and are generally installed on large, transport category airplanes. The FAA has received reports of the leg saddles cracking. Additionally, this SAIB applies only to seats with leg saddle part numbers 847367-723 or 847367-725.

Background

The leg saddles connect the seat legs to the front and rear base frame tubes. Due to a combination of design and production issues, the fit between the part number 847367-723 and 847367-725 saddle and the leg was too tight. This resulted in excessive pre-stresses in the weld area of the saddle. The repetitive loading of in-service use then caused these welds to crack. Seats with this condition were manufactured between July 1, 2000 and September 1, 2002.

In March 2007, Weber issued Service Information Letter, SIL 2806 to address this issue for the Model 5500 seats. Since that time, they have received additional information regarding the scope of this problem. They have released SIL 2933, Revision A, to cover the addition of the Model 5150 seats. Both SILs alert customers of the potential for cracking and recommend an inspection and replacement if necessary.

Recommendations

The FAA recommends that you inspect leg saddles with part numbers 847367-723 or 847367-725, manufactured between July 1, 2000 and September 1, 2002, in accordance with Weber Aircraft Service Information Letter, SIL 2933, Revision 1, dated December 18, 2008. We also recommend that you repeat the inspection at 12 month intervals and replace any cracked saddles. Failure to detect and replace cracked saddles could result in a reduction of the seat performance and occupant injury.

For Further Information Contact

Rob Romero, Aerospace Engineer, 2601 Meacham Blvd, Fort Worth, TX 76137; phone: (817) 222-5102; fax: (817) 222-5960; e-mail: Robert.A.Romero@faa.gov.

For Related Service Information Contact

Dane Coker, Weber Aircraft LLC, 2000 Weber Drive, Gainesville, TX 76240; phone: (940) 668-4100.