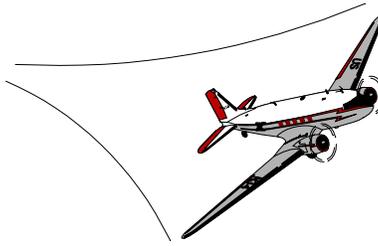


SPECIAL AIRWORTHINESS INFORMATION BULLETIN



U.S. Department
of Transportation
**Federal Aviation
Administration**

AIRCRAFT CERTIFICATION SERVICE
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This is issued for informational purposes only and any recommendation for corrective action is not mandatory.

INTRODUCTION:

The purpose of this Special Airworthiness Information Bulletin is to advise Piper PA-31, PA-31P, and PA-31T series aircraft owners/operators of the need to review the Service Bulletins (SB's) listed below to encourage compliance.

BACKGROUND:

As part of the Commuter Aging Aircraft Program, an aging aircraft review conducted by the FAA, the manufacturer, and operators of PA-31 series aircraft identified actions (SB's) that should be accomplished to ensure continued airworthiness of the aircraft.

The following two SB's, identified in the review, address inspection/repair of the elevator butt rib:

1. SB 864 dated October 14, 1987, specifies a one-time inspection within the next 100-hours time-in-service (TIS) on Models PA-31, PA-31-300, and PA-31-325 (serial numbers (S/N) 31-2 through 31-7612039) and Model PA-31-350 (S/N 31-5001 through 31-7652070) aircraft.
2. SB 897A dated January 3, 1990, specifies inspection within the next 100-hours TIS and thereafter at 500-hour TIS intervals with the option for terminating action upon the installation of Piper Kit 766-219, elevator butt rib refinement. SB 897A is applicable to Model PA-31P, PA-31T, PA-31T1, and PA-31T2 aircraft (all S/N).

Although SB 864 specifies a one-time inspection and SB 897A identifies a terminating action modification, ongoing inspections of the elevator butt rib should be accomplished during routine inspections of the aircraft.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

The SB's listed above were not considered appropriate for airworthiness directive action; however, the FAA strongly encourages that owner/operator review the aircraft's records to ensure compliance.

A copy of the service publications listed above may be obtained from:

The New Piper Aircraft, Inc.
2926 Piper Drive
Vero Beach, Florida 32960

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

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