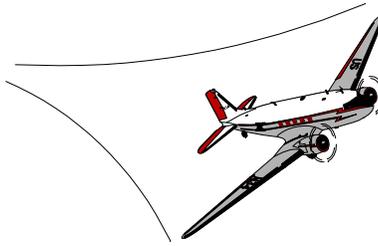


SPECIAL AIRWORTHINESS INFORMATION BULLETIN



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

AIRCRAFT CERTIFICATION SERVICE
800 INDEPENDENCE AVENUE, S.W.
WASHINGTON, DC 20591

No. ACE-98-38
July 6, 1998

Published by: FAA, AFS-610, P.O. Box 26460, Oklahoma City, OK 73125

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 (SAIB) is to inform the owners/operators of Pilatus Britten-Norman BN2, BN2A, BN2B and BN2T Islanders and BN2A-MkIII Trislander aircraft of cracks that have been found in the wing spar caps in the area of the top main landing gear thrust block.

Background

Pilatus Britten-Norman reports that some owners/operators have found cracks in the wing spar caps in the region of the main landing gear upper thrust block. The cracks can extend horizontally and/or vertically from bolt or fastener holes. Consequently, Pilatus Britten-Norman has issued Service Bulletin BN2/SB.237 Issue 1, dated October 1, 1997, which details inspection procedures for the affected spar cap area.

Recommendation

The FAA is recommending, but not requiring, that owners/operators of Pilatus Britten-Norman BN2, BN2A, BN2B and BN2T Islanders and BN2A-MkIII Trislander aircraft pay special attention when inspecting the spar cap in the area of the main landing gear upper thrust blocks and follow the instructions presented in Service Bulletin BN2/SB.237. The FAA strongly recommends that in the event cracks are found, no further flight take place until the component(s) is replaced. A spar cap is considered primary structure and it may not be able to sustain design loads when degraded by cracks.

Copies of Pilatus Britten-Norman Service Bulletin BN2/SB.237 Issue 1, dated October 1, 1997, can be obtained from Pilatus Britten-Norman, Ltd., Bembridge, Isle of Wight, United Kingdom, PO35 5PR.

For Further Information Contact:

Mr. Roger P. Chudy, FAA, Small Airplane Directorate, ACE-112, 1201 Walnut, Suite 900, Kansas City, MO 64106, telephone: (816) 426-6934, fax: (816) 426-2169.