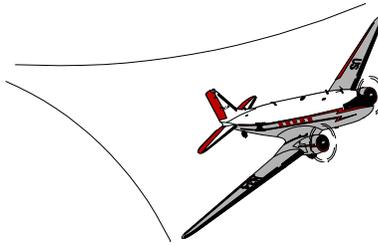


SPECIAL AIRWORTHINESS INFORMATION BULLETIN



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 (SAIB) is to inform registered owners/operators of deHavilland DH 82A and DH 83 Moth aircraft of a failure of the aft lateral fuselage tie rod.

Background

British Aerospace reports that during routine maintenance on a DH 82 aircraft, it was discovered the aft lateral fuselage tie rod had sheared at the spar attachment fitting. The failure was found to be the result of fatigue cracking at the threaded root of the rod. The same inspection found the forward lateral tie rod had been distorted. The distorted tie rod had been fabricated from material of an incorrect specification which had a lower tensile strength and may have contributed to the failure of the aft tie rod.

Recommendation

The FAA is recommending, but not requiring, that owners/operators of deHavilland DH 82A and DH 83 Moth airplanes replace the lateral tie rods and inspect the spar joint fittings as detailed by Item 1 of the Accomplishment Instructions of British Aerospace Technical News Sheet CT (Moth) No. 29. Item 2 of the Accomplishment Instructions provides the inspection procedure that should be followed during an annual inspection or after a heavy landing.

Copies of Technical News Sheet CT (Moth) No. 29 Issue 1 can be obtained from British Aerospace Military Aircraft and Aerostructures, Ltd., Chadderton Site, Greengate, Middleton, Manchester, M24 1SA, England.

For Further Information Contact:

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