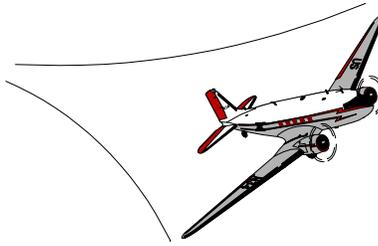


SPECIAL AIRWORTHINESS INFORMATION BULLETIN



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

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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 owners and operators of SOCATA Model TB-20 airplanes of the need to be aware of control anomalies that may occur due to ground damage.

Background

The Small Airplane Directorate, Aircraft Certification Service, of the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) has reviewed information concerning the crash of a SOCATA Trinidad TB-20 airplane on January 19, 1997. The horizontal elevator hinge levers were determined to have been bent before the accident. The control lock was engaged while the airplane was on the ground previous to the accident. Subsequent evaluation has determined that the most likely cause of the damage was the overloading on the elevator hinge levers by jet blast impinging on the horizontal elevator while the airplane was parked.

Recommendations

Do not park the airplane, in a position or location where jet blast, even from small jet aircraft, may strike the airplane from behind or from the side.

If the airplane is parked in an area near jet operations, include in the preflight inspection a check of the horizontal control levers to ensure that they are not bent.

If the control range and movement check prior to flight is abnormal, check the elevator hinge levers for bending.

If the elevator hinges appear bent, do not attempt to fly the airplane.

For Further Information Contact

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