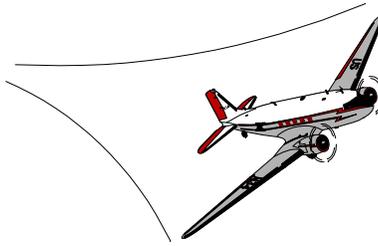


SPECIAL AIRWORTHINESS INFORMATION BULLETIN



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

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

No. ACE-98-37
June 18, 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 is to advise owners/operators of SOCATA TBM 700 Airplanes of the need to review SOCATA Service Bulletin SB 70-046-35.

Background

On June 4, 1998, the Small Airplane Directorate, Aircraft Certification Service, of the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) received a telegraphic Airworthiness Directive (AD) issued by the French airworthiness authority, the Direction Generale de l'Aviation Civile, (DGAC).

For TBM 700 airplanes registered in France, the DGAC AD specifies the modification of the chemical oxygen generators utilized for emergency oxygen and restricts operations of the airplane to flights that do not require emergency oxygen. The DGAC AD is based on field reports that some oxygen generators did not operate when deployed. The accomplishment of SOCATA service bulletin SB 70-046-35, as specified in the DGAC AD, will help ensure the oxygen generators will operate if actuated.

Recommendations

The FAA recommends, but at this time does not require, that SB 70-046-35 be accomplished as soon as practical. Until the service bulletin has been complied with, SOCATA TBM 700 operations should be limited to an altitude of 10,000 feet or below unless emergency oxygen, other than the factory installed chemical oxygen system, is available to the crew.

The FAA is currently evaluating this situation to determine if mandatory airworthiness action is required.

The service bulletin can be obtained from:

SOCATA Aircraft
Groupe Aerospatiale
North Perry Airport
7501 Pembroke Road
Pembroke Pines, FL 33023
telephone: (954) 893-1160; (954) 893-1400; or facsimile: (954) 964-4141

For Further Information Contact:

Karl M. Schletzbaum, Aerospace Engineer, FAA, Project Support Branch (ACE-112), Small Airplane Directorate, 601 E. 12th Street, Kansas City, Missouri, 64106, telephone: (816) 426-6934, facsimile: (816) 426-2169.