

MAULE AEROSPACE TECHNOLOGY, INC.

LAKE MAULE -- RT. 5, BOX 318 -- MOULTRIE, GA. 31768 -- PHONE (912) 985-2045

SERVICE LETTER #55

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May 1991

SUBJECT: Elevator Control Cable System Turnbuckles.

AIRPLANES AFFECTED: All Model Maules.

- 1) Occurrence is most likely - Floatplanes operating on saltwater.
- 2) Occurrence is next likely - Floatplanes on brackish or fresh water.
- 3) Occurrence is possible - Landplanes located near saltwater.
- 4) Occurrence is least likely - Landplanes located in dryer, less corrosive environments.

COMPLIANCE: Mandatory for (1) - (3) above, and highly recommended for (4).

STATUS: This Service Letter should be considered an early warning of a potential safety of flight problem. Further bulletins with recommended parts replacement for those airplanes operating in severe conditions will be issued as soon as possible. The new parts will be designed to reduce the possibility of corrosion in the affected area.

AUTHORITY: Maule Air, Inc.

BACKGROUND: Maule has received a report that the upper elevator cable turnbuckle failed adjacent to the elevator bellcrank on a floatplane in a tropical salt-water environment. The airplane had just landed and was on the water at the time of the failure.

ACTION TO BE TAKEN AND MATERIAL REQUIRED:

All operators of Maule airplanes are requested to remove the fuselage inspection covers above and below the elevators and visually check the pivoting action at the control cable attachment points over the **FULL** range of elevator travel. This action should be such that there are no bending loads imparted to the turnbuckles (which are designed for straight tension load only). Any binding which causes bending of the turnbuckles should be removed. Any cable attachment parts which display appreciable corrosion must be replaced before further flight. Pivot points must be cleaned and lubricated with any lightweight lubricating oil. Following lubrication, the cable attachments, including the turnbuckles, must be heavily coated with a good preservative such as:

(Preferred)
Black Bear Paralketone
Black Bear Company
Long Island City, New York

LPS 3
Heavy Duty Rust Inhibitor
LPS Laboratories, Inc.
Tucker, Georgia

FREQUENCY:

- A) For airplanes in category 1 under "AIRPLANES AFFECTED", the foregoing action must be accomplished before further flight and no more than every 30 days thereafter.
- B) For airplanes in category 2 and 3, the foregoing action must be accomplished before the next 10 hours of flight and no more than every 60 days thereafter.
- C) For airplanes in category 4, action is at the discretion of the operator, but no later than the first annual or 100 hour inspection and every annual or 100 hour inspection thereafter.

Return of the **Compliance Record** is requested for all aircraft operating in categories 1, 2, and 3 so that we can provide follow-up.

MAULE AEROSPACE TECHNOLOGY, INC.

LAKE MAULE :- RT. 5, BOX 318 :- MOULTRIE, GA. 31768 :- PHONE (912) 985-2045 :- FAX: (912) 890-2402

SERVICE LETTER NO. 55

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COMPLIANCE RECORD SHEET

Airplane Serial Number _____

Airplane Registration Number _____

The following action was taken with respect to this Service Letter:

- I am owner of a Maule Floatplane operating on saltwater (category 1) and have complied with Service Letter #55.
- I am owner of a Maule Floatplane operating on brackish or fresh water (category 2) and have complied with Service Letter #55.
- I am owner of a Maule Landplane located near saltwater (category 3) and have complied with Service Letter #55.
- I am owner of a Maule Landplane located in dryer, less corrosive environment and have complied with Service Letter #55.
- I no longer own this aircraft. It was sold to:

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

- Check here if to your knowledge your previously owned Maule aircraft was ever in category 1, 2, and/or 3.

Certified by (Signature) _____

Certified by (Print Name) _____

Title (Owner, A&E, IA, etc.) _____

Date _____

In our effort to keep our mailing list current, please fill in the following:

Owner's Name _____

Owner's Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Please return this Compliance Record to Maule Aerospace Technology, Inc./Engineering Records/RT 5 Box 318/Moultrie, GA 31768.

IT'S PERFORMANCE THAT COUNTS!