FAA
Aviation Safety

SPECIAL AIRWORTHINESS INFORMATION BULLETIN

SAIB: CE-20-09
SUBJ: Nacelle/Pylon, Frame/Spar/Rib **Date:** May 13, 2020

This is information only. Recommendations aren't mandatory.

Introduction

This Special Airworthiness Information Bulletin (SAIB) informs registered owners/operators of an airworthiness concern for **M7 Aerospace LLC, Models SA227** airplanes (under Type Certificate Data Sheets A5SW, A8SW and A18SW), all serial numbers, of an airworthiness concern. Specifically, this SAIB requests inspection and reporting of crack, damage, buckle, and/or wrinkle of the Nacelle keelson web and its surrounding structural areas.

At this time, the airworthiness concern is not an unsafe condition that would warrant airworthiness directive (AD) action under Title 14 of the Code of Federal Regulations (14 CFR) part 39.

Background

In June 2003, M7 Aerospace issued Service Letters 226-SL-030, 227-SL-046, CC7-SL-038 due to a report of damage seen on the Nacelle keelson webs adjacent to the heavy drag brace fitting. Typical damage is cracking and/or buckling of the keelson web at Nacelle Station (NS) 141.69 just aft of the drag brace fitting. There are two specific areas, one is located in the lower region of small vertical strip of web between the door hinge and the drag brace fitting (27-35162); the other is near the top of the drag brace fitting in the web immediately aft of the drag brace fitting.

Later in the 2017 time frame, more reports were received of cracks in the right-hand (RH) and left-hand (LH) Nacelle upper NS 80.87 leading edge rib, just below and forward of the 27-31130 spar straps at Wing Station (WS) 136/137. Areas of interest included RH battery box WS 80.87 Outboard upper rib 27-31023-044.

M7 Aerospace has observed cracking in the webs and generally issued a Limited Approved Repair (LAR) repair to owners and operators, which is presently being incorporated into the Structural Repair Manual (SRM).

Recommendations

The FAA recommends affected M7 Aerospace owners and operators inspect for crack, damage, buckle, and wrinkle in the nacelle keelson webs at:

a. LH and RH Nacelle upper NS 80.87 leading edge, just below and forward of the spar straps at WS 136/137.
b. RH battery box WS 80.87 out board upper rib.
c. Nacelle keelson web at NS 141.69, just aft of the drag brace fitting.

The FAA recommends that M7 Aerospace owners and operators report any finding of damage, crack, buckle or wrinkle to the FAA points of contact listed below. Providing this information is strictly voluntary, but please review the following notice:

A federal agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, nor shall a person be subject to a penalty for failure to comply with a collection of information subject to the requirements of the Paperwork Reduction Act unless that collection of information displays a current valid OMB Control Number. The OMB Control Number for this information collection is 2120-0056. Public reporting for this collection of information is estimated to be approximately 5 minutes per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. All responses to this collection of information are voluntary. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden to: Information Collection Clearance Officer, Federal Aviation Administration, 10101 Hillwood Parkway, Fort Worth, TX 76177-1524.

For Further Information Contact

Jacob Fitch, Aerospace Engineer, AIR-7F2, Fort Worth ACO Branch, 10101 Hillwood Pkwy, Fort Worth, TX 76177; phone: (817) 222-4130; email: jacob.fitch@faa.gov

Hung V. Nguyen, Aerospace Engineer, AIR-7F1, Fort Worth ACO Branch, 10101 Hillwood Pkwy, Fort Worth, TX 76177; phone: (817) 222-5155; e-mail: hung.v.nguyen@faa.gov

For Related Service Information Contact

M7 Aerospace, LLC, 10823 N.E. Entrance Road, San Antonio, Texas, 78216; phone: (210) 820-8641, ext. 598641; email: Conan.Fox@elbitsystem-us.com.