

Safety Communique

December, 2010

TO: ALL OWNERS AND OPERATORS, HAWKER BEECHCRAFT SERVICES, CHIEF PILOTS, DIRECTORS OF OPERATIONS, DIRECTORS OF MAINTENANCE, ALL HAWKER BEECHCRAFT AUTHORIZED SERVICE CENTERS, AND INTERNATIONAL DISTRIBUTORS AND DEALERS.

MODELS: HAWKER BEECHCRAFT BARON AND BONANZA MODELS, ALL SERIALS

SUBJECT: OUTBOARD WING FIRE POTENTIAL DUE TO FUEL LEAKS AND ELECTRICAL WIRE CHAFING

Hawker Beechcraft Corporation (HBC) is issuing Revision 1 to this Safety Communiqué to advise owners/operators of a potential safety issue concerning loose wiring and fuel fumes in the structural areas on Baron and Bonanza Model airplanes.

HBC has received an additional report to the initial three reports, of fire and/or ignition of combustible flammable fluid or vapors that occurred in the outboard wing of Baron Model airplanes. In all four incidents, the pilot and passengers were able to exit the airplane and extinguish the fire with no injuries. The first incident investigation revealed maintenance was an issue. The right wing fuel cell was replaced prior to the event and the "B" nut on the output side of the fuel boost pump leaked a small amount of fuel, which collected in the wheel well. The second incident investigation did not reveal the source of the fuel vapor and the ignition source of the fire because of the extent of the damage. The third incident investigation revealed evidence of electrical arcing between electrical wiring and structure. A vent line was left disconnected and an air leak was found on the aft side of the fuel cap assembly at the interior fuel placard mounting rivets. Further examination revealed the Fuel Level Tab Assembly placard and rivets were loose when moved by hand. In the fourth incident investigation, it was determined that the right wing fuel cap was not properly installed after fueling and became unseated during takeoff. Fire damage and skin buckling, skin rupture, and ballooning were noted on the outboard wing of each incident airplane.

HBC strongly reminds all owners/operators of the importance of performing proper safety inspections and maintenance practices on the fuel and electrical systems in accordance with applicable chapters/sections of the respective airplane Maintenance Manual/Shop Manual and Title 14 Code of Federal Regulations, Part 91, Subpart E.

Any damaged wiring must be replaced or repaired. In accordance with HBC Maintenance Manual/Shop Manual requirements and the latest revision of AC 43.13, all wiring must be routed and secured in such a manner as to prevent contact or chafing with equipment and/or structure. In addition, a minimum positive separation of 0.50 inch between electrical wiring and flammable fluid-carrying tubes and lines must be maintained using clamps or other approved methods. Access to the fuel cells may be gained through wing access panels, and all wing access panels must be removed to facilitate inspection. In addition, HBC stresses the importance of ensuring

Safety Communiqué No. 298, Rev. 1

1 of 2

The export of these commodities, technology or software are subject to the US Export Administration Regulations. Diversion contrary to U.S. law is prohibited. For guidance on export control requirements, contact the Commerce Department's Bureau of Export Administration at 202-482-4811 or at www.bxa.doc.gov.

that all flammable fluid-carrying tubes and lines, including vent lines, are properly routed and secured as defined in appropriate chapters of the applicable airplane Maintenance Manual/Shop Manual.

HBC strongly reminds all owners/operators that no visible fuel leaks or staining should be observed around the vents and sump drains during preflight inspections. The fuel pump and strainer should not exhibit evidence of any leaks or staining.

HBC will issue wiring security and Fuel Level Tab Assembly placard inspection and maintenance revisions to the appropriate airplane Maintenance Manual/Shop Manual Chapters/Sections, which establish appropriate intervals for inspection of wiring adjacent to fuel cells.

HBC will publish additional information as appropriate.

If you have any technical questions, please contact HBC Technical Support at 1-800-429-5372 or 1-316-676-3140.