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Air Safety Investigator
AS-CEN

Date: 7/23/2024

Subject: CEN24LA261

Contact: Thomas W. Miller, FAA

Inspector Miller conducted a post accident examination of Air Tractor N528JC. He found that the tail wheel lock handle was engaged in the cockpit, but the pin that locks the tailwheel was not engaged. Examination of the tail wheel lock pin found that the pin was protruding through the housing approximately 1/16".

The handle was operated several times with no change of position of the locking pin. Continuity of the controls proved that the handle and cable mechanism was complete but that the spring that locks the pin into the tail wheel receptacle did not have enough tension to overcome the resistance of the housing through which it passed. The pin and spring were eventually freed and successive operation of the Cockpit handle provided positive engagement of the tail wheel lock and extension of the pin through the housing of approximately 1/2". ///END OF STATEMENT///