

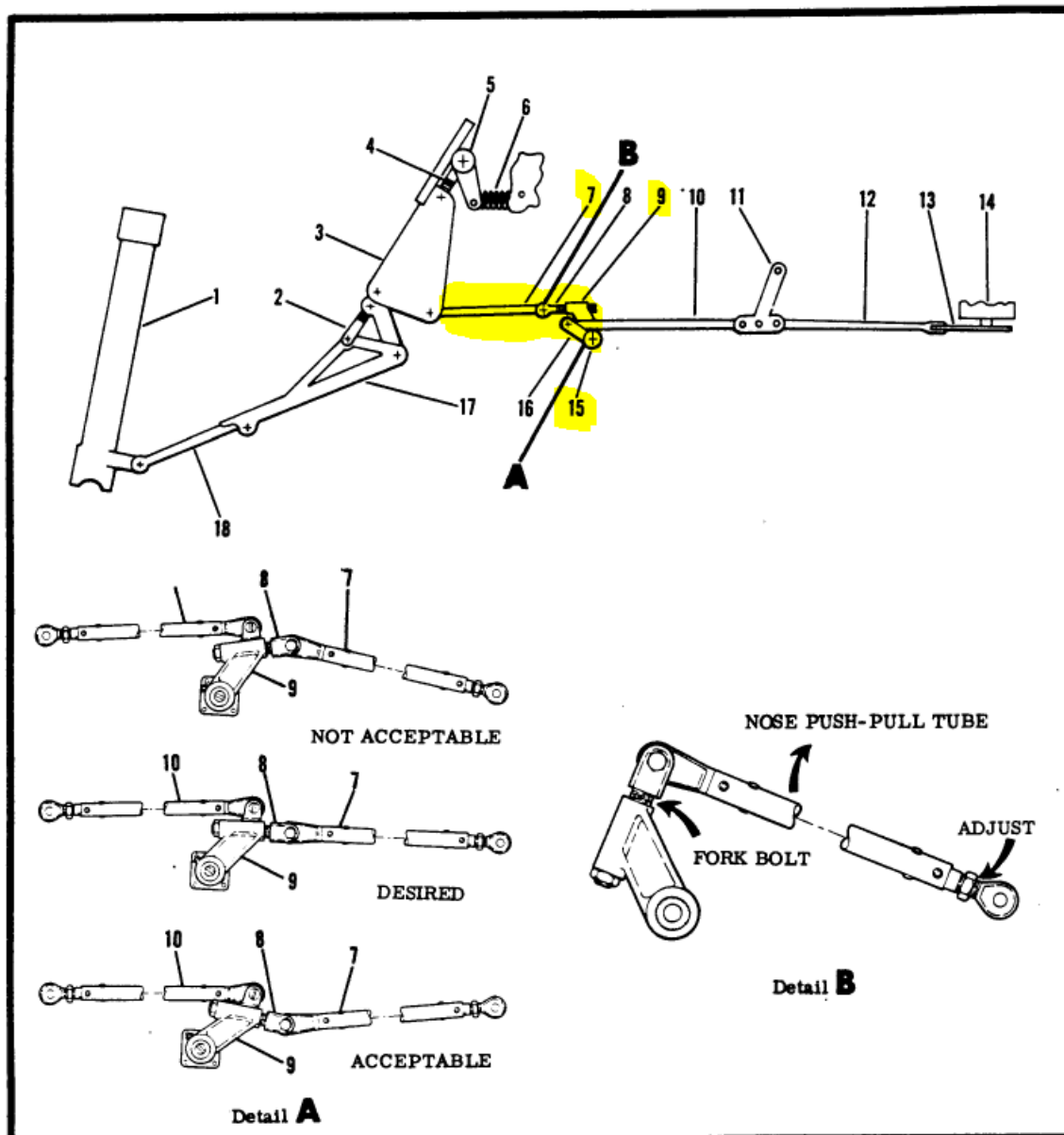


U.S. Department
of Transportation
**Federal Aviation
Administration**

FAA Inspector Statement
Of
Rodney L. Hood
11/01/2022

On November 1, 2022 I met with mechanics from Augusta Aviation at Augusta Regional at Bush Field (AGS). The purpose of the meeting was to witness an NTSB examination of N745EP which had experienced a nose landing gear collapse during landing. Ramp personnel informed me that the aircraft had been lifted using airbags and moved to the ramp following the collapse. In addition the owner's mechanic had removed the gear doors and disconnected the nose landing gear push-pull tube from the adjusting bellcrank to allow the landing gear to be moved to the down and locked position.

The aircraft was placed on jacks for the examination. For a reference of the following description, refer to the Cessna 414 Service Manual, page 4-29, figure 4-10 Schematic of Nose Gear Retracting Linkage. A gear swing could not be performed due to damage to the rib and gear well skin which secures the torque tube assembly (Item 15). In addition the nose push-pull tube (Item 7) could not be reconnected to the adjusting bellcrank (Item 9). The emergency gear extension handle was found neither stowed nor fully extended. The handle had been collapsed but would not stow due to pilot seat interference. The handle could be fully stowed after rotating approximately $\frac{1}{4}$ turn. Battery power was applied and three green gear lights were observed. The nose landing gear was shook fore and aft and the drag brace (Item 18) and truss assembly (Item 17) were pushed and pulled in an effort to ensure the gear was down and locked. The gear remained down and locked and the light did not flicker. Photographs of the damage were taken.



1. Nose Gear Strut
2. Adjusting Fork
3. Connector Link
4. Adjusting Rod End
5. Uplock Torque Tube
6. Spring
7. Nose Push-Pull Tube
8. Fork Bolt
9. Adjusting Bellcrank

10. Forward Drive Tube
11. Idler Bellcrank
12. Aft Drive Tube
13. Actuator Bellcrank
14. Landing Gear Actuator
15. Torque Tube Assembly
16. Outboard Bellcrank
17. Truss Assembly
18. Drag Brace

Figure 4-10. Schematic of Nose Gear Retracting Linkage