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Date: October 22, 2024
Subject: ERA24LA325- FAA Inspector Email Correspondence
Contact: Ryan Gillman, Aviation Safety Inspector, FAA

In email correspondence sent by Inspector Gillman on August 2, 2024, he provided a summary of the statement that the accident pilot, as well as the results of his inspection of the airplane.

Statement from the accident pilot to Inspector Gillman:

On Tuesday July 23rd at approximately 6:00pm I made a landing at the grass strip on Farnsworth Rd in Cuba NY. My approach, airspeed, landing spot, and flare were perfect. Upon touchdown the female end of the landing strut broke off where it connects to the male end of the wheel assembly. Upon inspection the female end showed significant wear and when this landing occurred it broke off at the weak point. The plane slid on the grass to a stop and damaged the landing gear, tail, and wing tip. There were no personal injuries or prop strike.

Inspector Gillman's statement regarding his inspection of the accident airplane:

According to the pilot's statement and inspection of the aircraft, it seems that shortly after landing, the fitting connecting the right main landing gear spring to the wheel assembly sheared. This caused the wheel to detach, resulting in a subsequent ground loop. The shear point was approximately 5 inches inboard of the right main wheel assembly. The pilot stated that it was not a hard landing.