

Shorts
SD360
Sherpa

INFORMATION LETTER

Number SD360 Sherpa-IL-23

Title: SERVICING/PAINTING - REMOVAL OF MASKING MATERIAL/PAINT
FROM NOSE LANDING GEAR DOWNLOCK ACTUATOR PISTON AFTER
CLEANING/PAINTING OPERATIONS

ATA Chapter: 12

Applicable to: MAINTENANCE and QUALITY.

This Service Information Letter (SIL) is issued to advise operators and maintenance organisations of the importance of proper 'masking-off' prior to cleaning/painting operations and subsequent removal of the 'masking material' and any undesirable paint spray.

An incident occurred on a SD360 aircraft when the Nose Landing Gear (NLG) failed to lock in the down position - nose landing gear 'Unsafe' annunciated. On application of nosewheel steering to exit the runway after landing, the nose gear partially collapsed causing minor damage to the aircraft. The aircraft had just been re-painted and this was the first flight cycle out of the paint shop.

Subsequent investigation revealed undesirable paint spray on the exposed chromed piston of the NLG downlock actuator. This is believed to be the prime factor that prevented the downlock actuator piston engaging in the aircraft locking plate (Refer to Figure 1).

Before cleaning/painting ensure that all areas that are not to be painted or cleaned are adequately protected and subsequently checked for removal of masking material or undesirable paint spray afterwards - see Structural Repair Manual 51-23-00 and Aircraft Maintenance Manual Chapter 12-21-01

Note: Aircraft Maintenance Manual Chapter 12-21-01 calls for the lubrication of the landing gear after cleaning/painting of the exterior of the aircraft.

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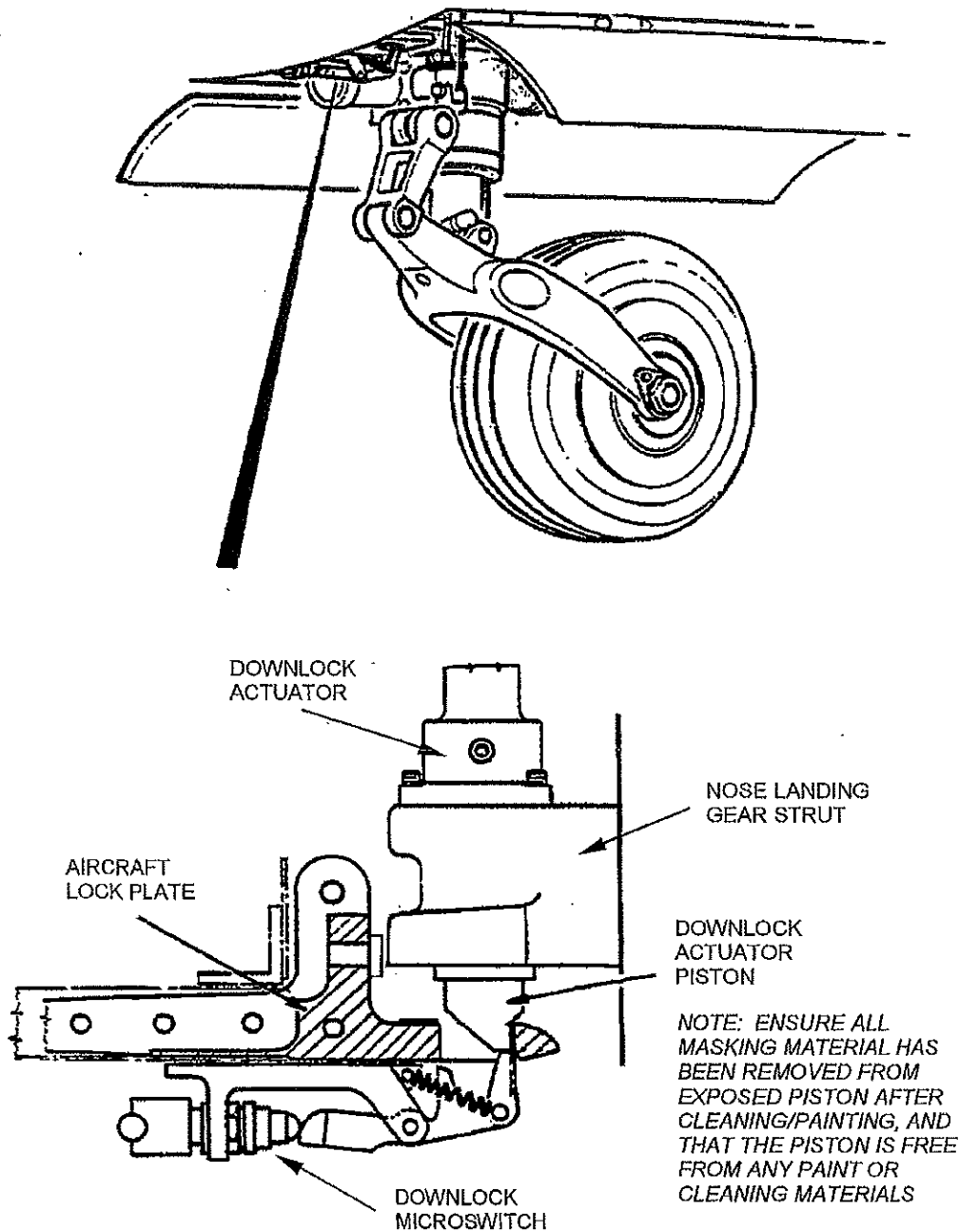


Figure 1

ENLARGED VIEW OF NOSE LANDING GEAR DOWNLOCK ACTUATOR

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