



RECREATIONAL AVIATION AUSTRALIA INC

Date 08 March 2011

RECREATIONAL AIRCRAFT AIRWORTHINESS NOTICE

AIRWORTHINESS NOTICE IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: RA-Aus 080311-1(issue 1)

ADDITIONAL MAINTENANCE INSPECTION ON SAPPHIRE AIRCRAFT

To: All owners and operators of Sapphire aircraft fitted with a pitch control centring system under the seat.

Discussion: The later Sapphire aircraft uses a bungee to bias the stabilator push rod to the centre and allows some limited trim control. All stabilator systems can be prone to large movements with little input and due to their size can be adversely affected by external (to the pilot) inputs. The system used on the Sapphire dampens some of the effects of these inputs. The result of wear or ageing of the dampening/centring system used on the Sapphire can mean that the stabilator can become too sensitive and be adversely affected by turbulent or changing airflows etc. Several Sapphire aircraft have been severely damaged when crosswinds and air turbulence were evident during landing, takeoff and taxiing: this was possibly due to deterioration in this system

Action Required: **BEFORE NEXT FLIGHT:** Inspect the stabilator centring bungee (located under the seat) for wear, damage, ageing, tightness, and the condition of the attachments. Replace any worn or deteriorated components immediately.

Recommended Further Action: This is a continuing airworthiness notice and the area should be inspected for damage and deterioration and attachment points every 50 Hours. (Coincident with the normal 50 hourly inspection)

Reports and Recording: The initial inspection is to be recorded in the aircraft log book citing **RA-Aus 080311-1(issue 1)**. Any defect found is to be reported to the RA-Aus office

Technical Manager

Defect Reporting is one of the primary ways we have in ensuring continued safety in our operations.