



RECREATIONAL AVIATION AUSTRALIA INC

Date: 24 April 2013

RECREATIONAL AIRCRAFT AIRWORTHINESS NOTICE

AIRWORTHINESS NOTICE IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: RAAus 240413-1(issue1)

INFLIGHT FAILURE OF RUDDER HINGE ON SAPPHIRE AIRCRAFT

To: All owners and operators of Sapphire and Facet aircraft.

Discussion: The rudder on the Sapphire aircraft is attached to the vertical fin by a pin inserted into the lower end of the rudder spar and a synthetic bush that surrounds the tubular spar at the top end and which is attached to the vertical fin by a bolt through two lugs which are an integral part of the bush. This synthetic fitting failed in flight allowing the rudder to lift off the lower hinge pin. The rudder remained attached to the aircraft by the rudder cables where it fouled the elevator, severely reducing pitch control.

Action to be taken: A modification to the top rudder hinge is being prepared and owners will be advised as soon as it is completed.

In the meantime the aircraft must not be flown. The Airworthiness Directive is ongoing and further advice as to action to be taken in relation to the defect will be published in a follow-up issue

Owners are required to inspect their aircraft for any sign of deterioration and/or failure of the hinge and if found advise RAAus accordingly.

Technical Manager.

Defect Reporting is one of the primary ways we have to ensure continuing safety in our operations.