



SAIB: CE-11-49

Date: August 26, 2011

SUBJ: Flight Controls, Elevator Tab Control System

This is information only. Recommendations aren't mandatory.

Introduction

This Special Airworthiness Information Bulletin (SAIB) informs registered owners/operators of all **Air Tractor, Inc. Models AT-802 and AT-802A** airplanes (under Type Certificate Data Sheet **A19SW**) of an airworthiness concern. Specifically, this SAIB provides guidance for general and detailed inspection and lubrication instructions for the elevator trim control system.

At this time, this airworthiness concern has not been determined to be an unsafe condition that would warrant airworthiness directive (AD) action under Title 14 of the Code of Federal Regulations (14 CFR) part 39.

Background

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) received a report of a failed weld on the elevator trim actuator attach clamp assembly bracket, part number (P/N) 70857-1, on an Air Tractor Model AT-802 airplane having approximately 5,000 hours time-in-service (TIS). The failure resulted in the airplane experiencing an unprompted pitch change during flight. The failure of the clamp assembly bracket was the result of the elevator trim system binding due to lack of lubrication of the elevator trim/boost tab bushings. The AT-802/AT-802A owners manual requires the elevator trim/boost tab bushings be lubricated every 100 hours TIS.

In response, Air Tractor, Inc. has issued Snow Engineering Co. Service Letter (SL) #300 to remind owners of the importance of complying with the recommended inspection and lubrication schedules in the AT-802/AT-802A owners manual. SL #300 specifies the elevator trim/boost tab bushings be inspected and lubricated every 100 hours TIS in accordance with the Air Tractor AT-802/802A owners manual. The SL also recommends a one-time inspection of the elevator trim actuator clamp assembly bracket, P/N 70857-1, for cracking in the weld. An improved replacement clamp assembly bracket, P/N 70857-5, is identified in the SL. The replacement bracket incorporates a weld on both sides of the mounting bracket to increase resistance to flexing at the weld location. If cracks are found in the actuator clamp assembly bracket, P/N 70857-1, replace the bracket with improved bracket P/N 70857-5 before further flight. The improved bracket P/N 70857-5 is incorporated in production starting at aircraft serial number 802A-0417.

Recommendations

The FAA recommends you do the actions of Snow Engineering Co. SL #300 as described above, including the procedures and time intervals included in the SL.

In addition, we recommend that you report any brackets found cracked during any inspection, to include crack location and size, to the FAA using the Further Information point of contact listed below. Under the provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act (44 U.S.C. 3501 et seq.), the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) has approved the information collection contained in this SAIB, and assigned OMB Control Number 2120-0731.

For Further Information Contact

Werner Koch, Aerospace Engineer, 2601 Meacham Blvd, Fort Worth, TX 76137;
phone: (817) 222-5133; fax: (817) 222-5960; e-mail: werner.g.koch@faa.gov.

For Related Service Information Contact

Air Tractor, Inc., 1524 Leland Snow Way, Olney, Texas 76374; phone: (940) 564-5616;
fax: (940) 564-5612.