
Issued by the Civil Aviation Authority of New Zealand in accordance with section 721(3A) of the Civil Aviation Act. An Airworthiness Directive (AD) contains regulatory information which is mandatory. An operator of an aircraft must not operate the aircraft unless the operator complies with every applicable AD issued by the Director in accordance with section 721(3A) of the Civil Aviation Act. An AD is issued where the Director believes on reasonable grounds that an unsafe condition exists in an aircraft or aeronautical product.

DCA/FU24/180 Hopper Lid Installations – Mod Approval and Conformity Inspection

Applicability: All Fletcher FU24 series aircraft fitted with a hopper lid.

Note 1: Investigation of a recent Cresco 08-600 accident identified a risk of the hopper lid interfering with the opening of the canopy in the event of an emergency landing. The pilot was prevented from opening the canopy by the hopper lid in the fully forward open position. This AD is issued due to the fact that the hopper lid installation on the accident aircraft was an unapproved modification and the Fletcher FU24 hopper installation is a similar design to the Cresco 08-600.

Requirement: To prevent an unforeseen hopper lid hazard resulting in interference or restriction to the opening of the canopy in the event of an emergency landing, accomplish the following:

- Review the aircraft records and determine that the hopper lid modification has been correctly recorded and certified for release to service, and that the applicable approved technical data is referenced.
- If the hopper lid modification is an approved design, accomplish a conformity inspection and determine that the hopper lid modification conforms to the applicable approved technical data.
- If the hopper lid modification is not an approved design, remove the hopper lid installation before further flight.

Note 2: The basic hopper installation for the Fletcher FU24 aircraft does not include a hopper lid due to the canopy sliding partly over the hopper inlet. A separate approval must be obtained to install a hopper lid.

(Occurrence 11/2478 refers)

Compliance: Within the next 150 hours TIS, or the next scheduled maintenance inspection, or by 30 September 2011 whichever occurs sooner.

Effective Date: 28 July 2011

Background: Investigation of a recent Cresco 08-600 accident identified a risk of the hopper lid interfering with the opening of the canopy in the event of an emergency landing. The pilot was prevented from opening the canopy by the hopper lid in the fully forward open position. This AD is issued due to the fact that the hopper lid installation on the accident aircraft was an unapproved modification and the Fletcher FU24 hopper installation is a similar design to the Cresco 08-600.



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28 July 2011