

Pacific Aerospace FU24 and FU24A Series Aircraft

Issued by the Civil Aviation Authority of New Zealand in accordance with section 72I(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 72I(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/FU24/184 Elevator Torque Tube – Inspection

Applicability: All FU24 and FU24A series aircraft fitted with an elevator torque tube P/N 242837, P/N 242527, P/N 242835 or P/N 242646.

Requirement: To prevent failure of the elevator torque tube due to possible fatigue, which could result in cracks, and loss of elevator and aileron control, carry out the following:

Accomplish a detailed visual inspection of the elevator torque tube. If any defects are found which indicate a possible crack, accomplish a NDT inspection.

If any cracks are found, replace the elevator torque tube per the instructions in the applicable Fletcher FU24 Maintenance Manual (MM).

A weld repair may be considered as a temporary solution until a replacement elevator torque tube is available. If a weld repair is considered, contact Pacific Aerospace for an approved repair scheme.

If the elevator torque tube is weld repaired, then accomplish a visual inspection on the repaired tube at intervals not to exceed 25 hours TIS until replacement.

If the elevator torque tube has previously been weld repaired (i.e. before the effective date of this AD), and the weld repair was not accomplished per an approved repair scheme, replace before further flight, or contact Pacific Aerospace for an approved repair scheme.

(Occurrence 16/3217 and 16/3348 refer)

Note 1: If any restriction in the elevator/aileron flight control system is experienced, accomplish the requirements of this AD before further flight.

Note 2: A detailed visual inspection is an examination of a specific item, installation or assembly to detect damage, failure or irregularity. Available lighting is normally supplemented with a direct source of good light at an intensity deemed appropriate. Inspection aids such as mirrors, a magnifying glass, etc. may be necessary. Surface cleaning and disassembly to gain access may also be required.

Note 3: The repetitive inspection requirements for the control column/elevator torque tube are specified in chapter 05 of the applicable Fletcher FU24 MM.

Compliance: Within the next 25 hours TIS.

Effective Date: 7 July 2016

Background: This AD is prompted by two reports received by the CAA of finding a crack in the elevator torque tube on two Cresco 08-600 aircraft. The same P/N elevator torque tube is fitted to FU24 and FU24A series aircraft. The AD is issued to prevent failure of the elevator torque tube due to possible fatigue, which could result in cracks, and loss of elevator and aileron control.



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