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## **DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**

### **Federal Aviation Administration**

#### **14 CFR Part 39**

**[Docket No. FAA-2013-0725; Directorate Identifier 98-CE-01-AD; Amendment 39-17690; AD 98-15-18 R1]**

**RIN 2120-AA64**

#### **Airworthiness Directives; Maule Aerospace Technology, Inc. Airplanes**

**AGENCY:** Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), DOT.

**ACTION:** Final rule.

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**SUMMARY:** We are revising Airworthiness Directive (AD) 98-15-18 that applies to certain Maule Aerospace Technology, Inc. Models M-4, M-5, M-6, M-7, MT-7, MX-7, MXT-7, and M-8 airplanes that are equipped with rear wing lift struts, part number (P/N) 2079E, and/or front wing lift struts, P/N 2080E. AD 98-15-18 required repetitively inspecting certain wing lift struts for internal corrosion and replacing of any wing lift strut where corrosion was found. Since we issued AD 98-15-18, we were informed by the manufacturer that Model MXT-7-420 airplanes are no longer in existence, are no longer type certificated, and should be removed from the Applicability section. We were also informed that paragraph (b) in AD 98-15-18 had been misinterpreted and caused confusion. This AD removes Model MXT-7-420 airplanes from the Applicability section and clarifies the intent of the language in paragraph (b) of AD 98-15-18. This AD also retains all other requirements of AD 98-15-18. We are issuing this AD to correct the unsafe condition on these products.

**DATES:** This AD is effective January 21, 2014.

The Director of the Federal Register approved the incorporation by reference of a certain publication listed in this AD as of January 26, 1996 (61 FR 623, January 9, 1996).

**ADDRESSES:** For service information identified in this AD, contact Maule Air, Inc., 2099 GA Hwy 133 South, Moultrie, Georgia 31768; telephone: (229) 985-2045; fax: (229) 890-2402; Internet: [http://www.mauleairinc.com/pdf/servicebulletins/service\\_bulletin\\_11\\_old.pdf](http://www.mauleairinc.com/pdf/servicebulletins/service_bulletin_11_old.pdf). You may review copies of the referenced service information at the FAA, Small Airplane Directorate, 901 Locust, Kansas City, Missouri 64106. For information on the availability of this material at the FAA, call (816) 329-4148.

## **Examining the AD Docket**

You may examine the AD docket on the Internet at <http://www.regulations.gov> by searching for and locating it in Docket No. FAA-2013-0725; or in person at the Docket Management Facility between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays. The AD docket contains this AD, the regulatory evaluation, any comments received, and other information. The address for the Docket Office (phone: 800-647-5527) is Document Management Facility, U.S. Department of Transportation, Docket Operations, M-30, West Building Ground Floor, Room W12-140, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE., Washington, DC 20590.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Gregory "Keith" Noles, Aerospace Engineer, FAA, Atlanta Aircraft Certification Office, 1701 Columbia Avenue, College Park, Georgia 30337; phone: (404) 474-5551; fax: (404) 474-5606; email: [gregory.noles@faa.gov](mailto:gregory.noles@faa.gov).

## **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

### **Discussion**

We issued a notice of proposed rulemaking (NPRM) to amend 14 CFR part 39 to revise AD 98-15-18, Amendment 39-10669 (63 FR 39018, July 21, 1998), ("AD 98-15-18"). AD 98-15-18 was also reissued with a correction on September 18, 1998 (63 FR 51520, September 28, 1998). AD 98-15-18 applied to the specified products. The NPRM published in the Federal Register on August 13, 2013 (78 FR 49207). The NPRM proposed to retain all requirements of AD 98-15-18, remove Model MXT-7-420 airplanes from the Applicability section, and clarify our intent of required actions if the seal on a sealed wing lift strut is ever improperly broken.

### **Comments**

We gave the public the opportunity to participate in developing this AD. We received no comments on the NPRM (78 FR 49207, August 13, 2013) or on the determination of the cost to the public.

### **Conclusion**

We reviewed the relevant data and determined that air safety and the public interest require adopting this AD as proposed except for minor editorial changes. We have determined that these minor changes:

- Are consistent with the intent that was proposed in the NPRM (78 FR 49207, August 13, 2013) for correcting the unsafe condition; and
- Do not add any additional burden upon the public than was already proposed in the NPRM (78 FR 49207, August 13, 2013).

### **Costs of Compliance**

We estimate that this AD affects 1,196 airplanes of U.S. registry.

We estimate the following costs to comply with this AD. However, the only difference in the costs presented below and the costs associated with AD 98-15-18 is the change in the labor rate from \$65 per hour to \$85 per hour.

### Estimated Costs

Action	Labor cost	Parts cost	Cost per product	Cost on U.S. operators
Inspection of the wing lift struts	11 × \$85 per hour = \$935 per inspection cycle	\$40	\$975 per inspection cycle	\$1,166,100 per inspection cycle.

We estimate the following costs to do any necessary replacements that will be required based on the results of the inspection. We have no way of determining the number of airplanes that might need these replacements:

### On-Condition Costs

Action	Labor cost per wing lift strut	Parts cost per wing lift strut	Cost per product per wing lift strut
Replacement of the wing lift strut	5 work-hours × \$85 per hour = \$425	\$500	\$925

### Authority for This Rulemaking

Title 49 of the United States Code specifies the FAA's authority to issue rules on aviation safety. Subtitle I, section 106, describes the authority of the FAA Administrator. Subtitle VII, Aviation Programs, describes in more detail the scope of the Agency's authority.

We are issuing this rulemaking under the authority described in Subtitle VII, Part A, Subpart III, section 44701, "General requirements." Under that section, Congress charges the FAA with promoting safe flight of civil aircraft in air commerce by prescribing regulations for practices, methods, and procedures the Administrator finds necessary for safety in air commerce. This regulation is within the scope of that authority because it addresses an unsafe condition that is likely to exist or develop on products identified in this rulemaking action.

### Regulatory Findings

We have determined that this AD will not have federalism implications under Executive Order 13132. This AD will not have a substantial direct effect on the States, on the relationship between the national government and the States, or on the distribution of power and responsibilities among the various levels of government.

For the reasons discussed above, I certify that this AD:

- (1) Is not a "significant regulatory action" under Executive Order 12866,
- (2) Is not a "significant rule" under DOT Regulatory Policies and Procedures (44 FR 11034, February 26, 1979),
- (3) Will not affect intrastate aviation in Alaska, and
- (4) Will not have a significant economic impact, positive or negative, on a substantial number of small entities under the criteria of the Regulatory Flexibility Act.

### List of Subjects in 14 CFR Part 39

Air transportation, Aircraft, Aviation safety, Incorporation by reference, Safety.

## **Adoption of the Amendment**

Accordingly, under the authority delegated to me by the Administrator, the FAA amends 14 CFR part 39 as follows:

### **PART 39—AIRWORTHINESS DIRECTIVES**

1. The authority citation for part 39 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 49 U.S.C. 106(g), 40113, 44701.

#### **§ 39.13 [Amended]**

2. The FAA amends § 39.13 by removing Airworthiness Directive (AD) 98-15-18, Amendment 39-10669 (63 FR 39018, July 21, 1998), and adding the following new AD:



**98-15-18 R1 Maule Aerospace Technology, Inc.:** Amendment 39-17690; Docket No. FAA-2013-0725; Directorate Identifier 98-CE-01-AD.

**(a) Effective Date**

This AD is effective January 21, 2014.

**(b) Affected ADs**

This AD revises AD 98-15-18, Amendment 39-10669 (63 FR 39018, July 21, 1998), which superseded AD 95-26-18, Amendment 39-9476 (61 FR 623, January 9, 1996.)

**(c) Applicability**

This AD applies to the following Maule Aerospace Technology, Inc. airplanes, all serial numbers, identified in figure 1 of paragraph (c) of this AD, that are:

- (1) Equipped with original equipment manufacturer (OEM) Maule Aerospace Technology, Inc. rear wing lift struts, part number (P/N) 2079E (or FAA-approved equivalent part numbers), and/or front wing lift struts, P/N 2080E (or FAA-approved equivalent part numbers), excluding airplanes equipped with four Maule sealed lift struts, P/N 2200E and P/N 2201E, which are identified by two raised weld spots on the upper end of the strut just below the serial number plate. Removal of the upper cuff is needed to locate the weld spots; and
- (2) certificated in any category.

**Figure 1 to Paragraph (c) of This AD—Applicability**

Models				
Bee Dee M-4	M-4	M-4C	M-4S	M-4T
M-4-180C	M-4-180S	M-4-180T	M-4-210	M-4-210C
M-4-210S	M-4-210T	M-4-220	M-4-220C	M-4-220S
M-4-220T	M-5-180C	M-5-200	M-5-210C	M-5-210TC
M-5-220C	M-5-235C	M-6-180	M-6-235	M-7-235
M-7-235A	M-7-235B	M-7-235C	MT-7-235	MX-7-160
MX-7-180	MX-7-180A	MX-7-180B	MX-7-235	MX-7-420
MXT-7-160	MXT-7-180	MXT-7-180A	M-8-235	

**(d) Subject**

Joint Aircraft System Component (JASC)/Air Transport Association (ATA) of America Code 57, Wings.

### (e) Unsafe Condition

(1) The subject of this AD was originally prompted by reports of corrosion damage found on the wing lift struts. We are revising AD 98-15-18, Amendment 39-10669 (63 FR 39018, July 21, 1998), because of reports that the language in paragraph (b) had been misinterpreted and caused confusion. Since we issued AD 98-15-18, we were informed by the manufacturer that Model MXT-7-420 airplanes are no longer in existence, are no longer type certificated, and should be removed from the Applicability section. This AD removes Model MXT-7-420 airplanes from the Applicability section and clarifies the intent of the language in paragraph (b) of AD 98-15-18, which is being removed by this AD.

(2) This AD clarifies the FAA's intention that if a sealed wing lift strut assembly is installed as a replacement part, the repetitive inspection requirement is terminated only if the seal is never improperly broken. If the seal is improperly broken, then that wing lift strut becomes subject to continued repetitive inspections. We did not intend to promote drilling holes into or otherwise unsealing a sealed strut. This AD retains all the actions required in AD 98-15-18 and does not add any actions over that already required in AD 98-15-18. This AD does not add any additional burden to the owners/operators of the affected airplanes.

(3) We are issuing this AD to detect and correct corrosion on the front and rear wing lift struts, which could cause the wing lift strut to fail. This failure could result in the wing separating from the airplane.

### (f) Paragraph Designation Changes to AD 98-15-18

Since AD 98-15-18, Amendment 39-10669 (63 FR 39018, July 21, 1998), was issued, the AD format has been revised, and certain paragraphs have been rearranged. As a result, the corresponding paragraph identifiers have changed in this AD, as listed in the following table:

**Table 1 to Paragraph (f) of This AD—Revised Paragraph Identifiers**

<b>Requirement in AD 98-15-18</b>	<b>Corresponding requirement in this AD</b>
paragraph (a)	paragraph (h)
paragraph (a)(1)	paragraph (i)(1)
paragraph (a)(1)(i)	paragraph (i)(1)(i)
paragraph (a)(1)(ii)	paragraph (i)(1)(ii)
paragraph (a)(2)	paragraph (i)(2)
paragraph (a)(2)(i)	paragraph (i)(2)(i)
paragraph (a)(2)(ii)	paragraph (i)(2)(ii)
paragraph (a)(3)	paragraph (j)(1)
paragraph (a)(4) and (c)	paragraph (j)(2)
paragraph (b)	Removed

### (g) Compliance

Unless already done (compliance with AD 98-15-18, Amendment 39-10669 (63 FR 39018, July 21, 1998)), do the following actions within the compliance times specified in paragraphs (h) through (j) of this AD, including all subparagraphs. Properly unsealing and resealing a sealed wing lift strut is

still considered a terminating action for the repetitive inspection requirements of this AD as long as all appropriate regulations and issues are considered, such as static strength, fatigue, material effects, immediate and long-term (internal and external) corrosion protection, resealing methods, etc. Current FAA regulations in 14 CFR 43.13(b) specify that maintenance performed will result in the part's condition to be at least equal to its original or properly altered condition. Any maintenance actions that unseal a sealed wing lift strut should be coordinated with the Atlanta Aircraft Certification Office (ACO) through the local airworthiness authority (e.g., Flight Standards District Office). There are provisions in paragraph (k) of this AD for approving such actions as an alternative method of compliance (AMOC).

#### **(h) Remove Wing Lift Struts**

At whichever of the compliance times specified in paragraphs (h)(1), (h)(2), or (h)(3) of this AD that occurs later, remove the wing lift struts following the INSTRUCTIONS section in PART I of Maule Service Bulletin (SB) No. 11, dated October 30, 1995. Before further flight after the removal, do the actions in one of the following paragraphs (i)(1), (i)(2), (j)(1), or (j)(2) of this AD, including all subparagraphs.

(1) Upon accumulating 2 years time-in-service on an OEM Maule wing lift strut, P/N 2079E and/or P/N 2080E;

(2) Within 3 calendar months after September 9, 1998 (the effective date retained from AD 98-15-18, Amendment 39-10669 (63 FR 39018, July 21, 1998)); or

(3) Within 2 years after the last inspection done in accordance with AD 95-26-18, Amendment 39-9476 (61 FR 623, January 9, 1996) (which was superseded by AD 98-15-18).

#### **(i) Inspect Wing Lift Struts**

Before further flight after the removal required in paragraph (h) of this AD, inspect each wing lift strut following paragraph (i)(1) or (i)(2) of this AD, including all subparagraphs, or do the wing lift strut replacement following one of the options in paragraph (j)(1) or (j)(2) of this AD.

(1) Inspect each wing lift strut for corrosion and perceptible dents following the INSTRUCTIONS section in PART I of Maule SB No. 11, dated October 30, 1995.

(i) If no corrosion is visible and no perceptible dents are found on any wing lift strut during the inspection required in paragraph (i)(1) of this AD, before further flight, apply corrosion inhibitor to each wing lift strut following the INSTRUCTIONS section in PART I of Maule SB No. 11, dated October 30, 1995. Repetitively thereafter inspect each wing lift strut at intervals not to exceed 24 calendar months following the procedures in paragraph (i)(1) or (i)(2) of this AD, including all subparagraphs.

(ii) If corrosion or perceptible dents are found on any wing lift strut during the inspection required in paragraph (i)(1) of this AD or during any repetitive inspection required in paragraph (i)(1)(i) of this AD, before further flight, replace the affected wing lift strut with one of the replacement options specified in paragraph (j)(1) or (j)(2) of this AD. Do the replacement following the procedures specified in those paragraphs, as applicable.

(2) Inspect each wing lift strut for corrosion following the procedures in the Appendix to this AD. This inspection must be done by a Level 2 or Level 3 inspector certified using the guidelines established by the American Society for Non-destructive Testing or the "Military Standard for Nondestructive Testing Personnel Qualification and Certification" (MIL-STD-410E), which can be found on the Internet at <http://aerospacedefense.thomasnet.com/Asset/MIL-STD-410.pdf>.

(i) If no corrosion is found on any wing lift strut during the inspection required in paragraph (i)(2) of this AD and all requirements in the Appendix to this AD are met, before further flight, apply corrosion inhibitor to each wing lift strut following the INSTRUCTIONS section in PART I of Maule SB No. 11, dated October 30, 1995. Repetitively thereafter inspect each wing lift strut at intervals not

to exceed 24 calendar months following the procedures in paragraph (i)(1) or (i)(2) of this AD, including all subparagraphs.

(ii) If corrosion is found on any wing lift strut during the inspection required in paragraph (i)(2) of this AD or during any repetitive inspection required in paragraph (i)(2)(i) of this AD, or if any requirement in the Appendix of this AD is not met, before further flight after any inspection in which corrosion is found or the Appendix requirements are not met, replace the affected wing lift strut with one of the replacement options specified in paragraph (j)(1) or (j)(2) of this AD. Do the replacement following the procedures specified in those paragraphs, as applicable.

### **(j) Wing Lift Strut Replacement Options**

Before further flight after the removal required in paragraph (h) of this AD, replace the wing lift struts following one of the options in paragraph (j)(1) or (j)(2) of this AD, or inspect each wing lift strut following paragraph (i)(1) or (i)(2) of this AD, including all subparagraphs.

(1) Install OEM Maule P/N wing lift struts (or FAA-approved equivalent part numbers) that have been inspected following the procedures in either paragraph (i)(1) or (i)(2) of this AD, including all subparagraphs, and are found to be airworthy. Do the installations following the INSTRUCTIONS section in PART II of Maule SB No. 11, dated October 30, 1995. Repetitively thereafter inspect the newly installed wing lift struts at intervals not to exceed 24 calendar months following the procedures in either paragraph (i)(1) or (i)(2) of this AD, including all subparagraphs.

(2) Install new Maule sealed wing lift struts, P/N 2200E or P/N 2201E, as applicable (or FAA-approved equivalent part numbers) following the INSTRUCTIONS section in PART II of Maule SB No. 11, dated October 30, 1995. Installing one of these new sealed wing lift strut assemblies terminates the repetitive inspection requirements in paragraphs (i)(1) or (i)(2) of this AD, including all subparagraphs, for that wing lift strut assembly.

### **(k) Alternative Methods of Compliance (AMOCs)**

(1) The Manager, Atlanta ACO, FAA, has the authority to approve AMOCs for this AD, if requested using the procedures found in 14 CFR 39.19. In accordance with 14 CFR 39.19, send your request to your principal inspector or local Flight Standards District Office, as appropriate. If sending information directly to the manager of the ACO, send it to the attention of the person identified in the Related Information section of this AD.

(2) Before using any approved AMOC, notify your appropriate principal inspector, or lacking a principal inspector, the manager of the local flight standards district office/certificate holding district office.

(3) AMOCs approved for AD 98-15-18, Amendment 39-10669 (63 FR 39018, July 21, 1998) and AD 95-26-18, Amendment 39-9476 (61 FR 623, January 9, 1996) are approved as AMOCs for this AD.

### **(l) Related Information**

For more information about this AD, contact Gregory K. Noles, Aerospace Engineer, FAA, Atlanta ACO, 1701 Columbia Avenue, College Park, Georgia 30337; phone: (404) 474-5551; fax: (404) 474-5606; email: gregory.noles@faa.gov.

### **(m) Material Incorporated by Reference**

(1) The Director of the Federal Register approved the incorporation by reference (IBR) of the service information listed in this paragraph under 5 U.S.C. 552(a) and 1 CFR part 51.

(2) You must use this service information as applicable to do the actions required by this AD, unless the AD specifies otherwise.

(3) The following service information was approved for IBR on January 26, 1996 (61 FR 623, January 9, 1996).

(i) Maule Service Bulletin No. 11, dated October 30, 1995.

(ii) Reserved.

(4) For Maule Aerospace Technology, Inc. service information identified in this AD, contact Maule Air, Inc., 2099 GA Hwy 133 South, Moultrie, Georgia 31768; telephone: (229) 985-2045; fax: (229) 890-2402; Internet: [http://www.mauleairinc.com/pdf/servicebulletins/service\\_bulletin\\_11\\_old.pdf](http://www.mauleairinc.com/pdf/servicebulletins/service_bulletin_11_old.pdf).

(5) You may view this service information at Small Airplane Directorate, 901 Locust, Kansas City, Missouri 64106. For information on the availability of this material at the FAA, call (816) 329-4148.

(6) You may view this service information that is incorporated by reference at the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA). For information on the availability of this material at NARA, call 202-741-6030, or go to: <http://www.archives.gov/federal-register/cfr/ibr-locations.html>.

## **Appendix to AD 98-15-18 R1**

### **Procedures and Requirements for Ultrasonic Inspection of Maule Wing Lift Struts**

#### **Equipment Requirements**

1. A portable ultrasonic thickness gauge or flaw detector with echo-to-echo digital thickness readout capable of reading to 0.001-inch and an A-trace waveform display will be needed to do this inspection.

2. An ultrasonic probe with the following specifications will be needed to do this inspection: 10 MHz (or higher), 0.283-inch (or smaller) diameter dual element or delay line transducer designed for thickness gauging. The transducer and ultrasonic system shall be capable of accurately measuring the thickness of AISI 4340 steel down to 0.020-inch. An accuracy of 0.002-inch throughout a 0.020-inch to 0.050-inch thickness range while calibrating shall be the criteria for acceptance.

3. Either a precision machined step wedge made of 4340 steel (or similar steel with equivalent sound velocity) or at least three shim samples of same material will be needed to do this inspection. One thickness of the step wedge or shim shall be less than or equal to 0.020-inch, one shall be greater than or equal to 0.050-inch and at least one other step or shim shall be between these two values.

4. Glycerin, light oil, or similar non-water based ultrasonic couplants are recommended in the setup and inspection procedures. Water-based couplants, containing appropriate corrosion inhibitors, may be utilized, provided they are removed from both the reference standards and the test item after the inspection procedure is completed and adequate corrosion prevention steps are then taken to protect these items.

- NOTE: Couplant is defined as "a substance used between the face of the transducer and test surface to improve transmission of ultrasonic energy across the transducer/strut interface."
- NOTE: If surface roughness due to paint loss or corrosion is present, the surface should be sanded or polished smooth before testing to assure a consistent and smooth surface for making contact with the transducer. Care shall be taken to remove a minimal amount of structural material. Paint repairs may be necessary after the inspection to prevent further corrosion damage from occurring. Removal of surface irregularities will enhance the accuracy of the inspection technique.

#### **Instrument Setup**

1. Set up the ultrasonic equipment for thickness measurements as specified in the instrument's user's manual. Because of the variety of equipment available to perform ultrasonic thickness

measurements, some modification to this general setup procedure may be necessary. However, the tolerance requirement of step 13 and the record keeping requirement of step 14, must be satisfied.

2. If battery power will be employed, check to see that the battery has been properly charged. The testing will take approximately two hours. Screen brightness and contrast should be set to match environmental conditions.

3. Verify that the instrument is set for the type of transducer being used, i.e. single or dual element, and that the frequency setting is compatible with the transducer.

4. If a removable delay line is used, remove it and place a drop of couplant between the transducer face and the delay line to assure good transmission of ultrasonic energy. Reassemble the delay line transducer and continue.

5. Program a velocity of 0.231-inch/microsecond into the ultrasonic unit unless an alternative instrument calibration procedure is used to set the sound velocity.

6. Obtain a step wedge or steel shims per item 3 of the Equipment Requirements. Place the probe on the thickest sample using couplant. Rotate the transducer slightly back and forth to "ring" the transducer to the sample. Adjust the delay and range settings to arrive at an A-trace signal display with the first backwall echo from the steel near the left side of the screen and the second backwall echo near the right of the screen. Note that when a single element transducer is used, the initial pulse and the delay line/steel interface will be off of the screen to the left. Adjust the gain to place the amplitude of the first backwall signal at approximately 80% screen height on the A-trace.

7. "Ring" the transducer on the thinnest step or shim using couplant. Select positive half-wave rectified, negative half-wave rectified, or filtered signal display to obtain the cleanest signal. Adjust the pulse voltage, pulse width, and damping to obtain the best signal resolution. These settings can vary from one transducer to another and are also user dependent.

8. Enable the thickness gate, and adjust the gate so that it starts at the first backwall echo and ends at the second backwall echo. (Measuring between the first and second backwall echoes will produce a measurement of the steel thickness that is not affected by the paint layer on the strut). If instability of the gate trigger occurs, adjust the gain, gate level, and/or damping to stabilize the thickness reading.

9. Check the digital display reading and if it does not agree with the known thickness of the thinnest thickness, follow your instrument's calibration recommendations to produce the correct thickness reading. When a single element transducer is used this will usually involve adjusting the fine delay setting.

10. Place the transducer on the thickest step of shim using couplant. Adjust the thickness gate width so that the gate is triggered by the second backwall reflection of the thick section. If the digital display does not agree with the thickest thickness, follow your instruments calibration recommendations to produce the correct thickness reading. A slight adjustment in the velocity may be necessary to get both the thinnest and the thickest reading correct. Document the changed velocity value.

11. Place couplant on an area of the lift strut which is thought to be free of corrosion and "ring" the transducer to surface. Minor adjustments to the signal and gate settings may be required to account for coupling improvements resulting from the paint layer. The thickness gate level should be set just high enough so as not to be triggered by irrelevant signal noise. An area on the upper surface of the lift strut above the inspection area would be a good location to complete this step and should produce a thickness reading between 0.034-inch and 0.041-inch.

12. Repeat steps 8, 9, 10, and 11 until both thick and thin shim measurements are within tolerance and the lift strut measurement is reasonable and steady.

13. Verify that the thickness value shown in the digital display is within 0.002-inch of the correct value for each of the three or more steps of the setup wedge or shims. Make no further adjustments to the instrument settings.

14. Record the ultrasonic versus actual thickness of all wedge steps or steel shims available as a record of setup.

## Inspection Procedure

1. Clean the lower 18 inches of the wing lift struts using a cleaner that will remove all dirt and grease. Dirt and grease will adversely affect the accuracy of the inspection technique. Light sanding or polishing may also be required to reduce surface roughness as noted in the Equipment Requirements section.

2. Using a flexible ruler, draw a 1/4-inch grid on the surface of the first 11 inches from the lower end of the strut as shown in Maule Air, Inc. Service Bulletin No. 11, dated October 30, 1995, as applicable. This can be done using a soft (2) pencil and should be done on both faces of the strut. As an alternative to drawing a complete grid, make two rows of marks spaced every 1/4 inch across the width of the strut. One row of marks should be about 11 inches from the lower end of the strut, and the second row should be several inches away where the strut starts to narrow. Lay the flexible ruler between respective tick marks of the two rows and use tape or a rubber band to keep the ruler in place. See Figure 1.

3. Apply a generous amount of couplant inside each of the square areas or along the edge of the ruler. Re-application of couplant may be necessary.

4. Place the transducer inside the first square area of the drawn grid or at the first 1/4-inch mark on the ruler and "ring" the transducer to the strut. When using a dual element transducer, be very careful to record the thickness value with the axis of the transducer elements perpendicular to any curvature in the strut. If this is not done, loss of signal or inaccurate readings can result.

5. Take readings inside each square on the grid or at 1/4-inch increments along the ruler and record the results. When taking a thickness reading, rotate the transducer slightly back and forth and experiment with the angle of contact to produce the lowest thickness reading possible. Pay close attention to the A-scan display to assure that the thickness gate is triggering off of maximized backwall echoes.

NOTE: A reading shall not exceed .041 inch. If a reading exceeds .041 inch, repeat steps 13 and 14 of the Instrument Setup section before proceeding further.

6. If the A-trace is unsteady or the thickness reading is clearly wrong, adjust the signal gain and/or gate setting to obtain reasonable and steady readings. If any instrument setting is adjusted, repeat steps 13 and 14 of the Instrument Setup section before proceeding further.

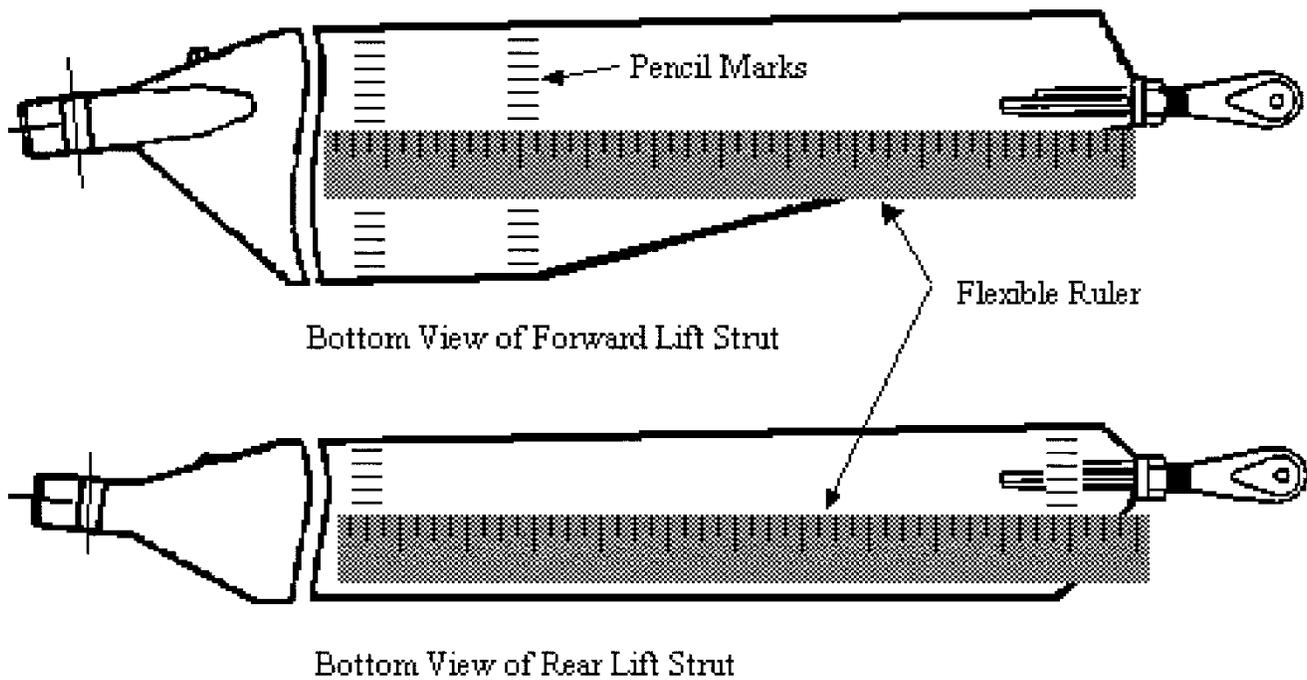
7. In areas where obstructions are present, take a data point as close to the correct area as possible.

NOTE: The strut wall contains a fabrication bead at approximately 40% of the strut chord. The bead may interfere with accurate measurements in that specific location.

8. A measurement of 0.024 inch or less shall require replacement of the strut prior to further flight.

9. If at any time during testing an area is encountered where a valid thickness measurement cannot be obtained due to a loss of signal strength or quality, the area shall be considered suspect. These areas may have a remaining wall thickness of less than 0.020-inch, which is below the range of this setup, or they may have small areas of localized corrosion or pitting present. The latter case will result in a reduction in signal strength due to the sound being scattered from the rough surface and may result in a signal that includes echoes from the pits as well as the backwall. The suspect area(s) shall be tested with a Maule "Fabric Tester" as specified in Maule Air, Inc. Service Bulletin No. 11, dated October 30, 1995.

10. Record the lift strut inspection in the aircraft log book.



**Figure 1**

Issued in Kansas City, Missouri, on November 22, 2013.  
Earl Lawrence,  
Manager, Small Airplane Directorate,  
Aircraft Certification Service.