

Piper PA-44 (Seminole) Series Aeroplanes

AD/PA-44/13 Main Landing Gear - Trunnion Housing 10/94

Applicability: PA-44-180 Seminole Serial Numbers 44-7995001 to 44-8195026 and PA-44-180T Turbo Seminole Serial Number 44-8107001 to 44-8207020, unless equipped with main landing gear trunnion housings bearing the forging stamp number 02599-2.

- Requirement:
1. Clean and strip paint from the inspection area as defined in Sketch A and Sketch B of Piper SB 787B. Inspect for cracks using fluorescent dye penetrant per CAO 108.10. Perform a detailed visual inspection using a 10X glass for grinding or machining marks. Remove any marks detected with 180 grit aluminium oxide paper. Polish area with 600 grit or finer aluminium oxide paper. Treat with Alodine 1200 (or equivalent), prime with a chromate primer and finish paint to match existing scheme.
 2. Clean and strip paint from the inspection area as defined in Sketch A and Sketch B of Piper SB 787B. Inspect for cracks using fluorescent dye penetrant per CAO 108.10. Prime with a chromate primer and finish paint to match existing scheme.
 3. Replace main landing gear trunnion with new replacement part number components as defined in Piper SB 787B.

Note: FAA AD 94-13-11 refers.

- Compliance:
1. Action in accordance with Requirement 1 before 500 hours time in service or within 50 hours time in service from 15 September 1994 whichever is the later.
 2. Action in accordance with Requirement 2 at intervals not exceeding 100 hours time in service.
 3. If the main landing gear trunnion hours cannot be determined the airframe hours may be substituted. Action in accordance with Requirement 3 before 2000 hours time in service, except that main landing gear trunnions that have exceeded 2000 hours time in service may remain in service until 2500 hours time in service provided:
 - a. Replacement parts have been ordered and are unavailable.
 - b. Repeat inspections are performed at 10 hour time in service intervals and no cracks are detected. In this instance the requirement to paint the trunnion between inspections may be deleted.
 - c. Replacement is completed within 5 hours time in service of the parts becoming available.

Replacement with new part number trunnion housings as listed in Piper SB 787B with embossed forging number 02599-2, cancels all requirements of this AD.

SCHEDULE OF AIRWORTHINESS DIRECTIVES

Background: Cracks have developed in the main landing gear trunnion housings on the aft side at the lower end of the fillet. Though Piper have made design changes to these components cracks have still continued to occur. This AD inspects existing components and replaces them with further improved components.