



Inadvertent Opening of Doors in flight.

**AWB** 52-002 **Issue :** 1  
**Date :** 6 April 2011

## 1. Effectivity

All Single and Twin piston engine aircraft.

## 2. Purpose

To raise the awareness of maintenance personnel and aircraft operators to the number of instances of cabin doors and storage locker doors on un-pressurised aircraft that inadvertently opening during flight.

## 3. Background

There are various reports on the ESIR system that describe situations where aircraft doors are inadvertently opening during flight resulting in the aircraft being required to return to base or declare an emergency to the tower. The aircraft types include both single and twin piston engine aircraft in various operational categories.

Independent research by Transport Canada has linked this type of event to fatal accidents on piston engine aircraft.

Potential causes can range from the door being incorrectly closed to excessive wear of the locking mechanism preventing the door from being securely fastened.

## 4. Recommendations

It is strongly recommended that all registered operators and maintainers take the following action.

- Ensure that all aircraft openings “doors and hatches” are inspected to ensure that:
  - ◇ the wear of the locking mechanisms are within limits,
  - ◇ the door or hatch locks with a positive action and
  - ◇ the aircraft doors still meet the original type certification design.
- Maintenance personnel completing periodic inspections should ensure that all placards detailing door operating instructions are present and clearly visible both internally and external on the aircraft.
- Operators are to ensure that:
  - ◇ the flight crew are made aware of the requirement to confirm that all doors and hatches are secured correctly prior to the starting of engines,



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- ◇ the passengers are briefed correctly in the operation of doors particularly on aircraft types where a passenger is sitting at the only access door to the aircraft.
- It is recommended that operators train flight crew on the appropriate procedures to follow in the event of a door opening in flight.
- Report all incidents of aircraft door opening inadvertently in flight on the CASA SDR system.

## 5. Enquiries

Enquiries with regard to the content of this Airworthiness Bulletin should be made via the direct link e-mail address:

[AirworthinessBulletin@casa.gov.au](mailto:AirworthinessBulletin@casa.gov.au)

or in writing, to:

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