



Airworthiness Bulletin

AWB 25-037 Issue 1 – 23 August 2021

Textron C208 Passenger Seat Belts

An Airworthiness Bulletin is an advisory document that alerts, educates and makes recommendations about airworthiness matters. Recommendations in this bulletin are not mandatory.

1. Effectivity

Textron C208 aircraft fitted with Aircraft Belts Inc (ABI) P/N 9919105-5 lap belts.

2. Purpose

To notify operators and maintainers of recent defects with these belts.

3. Background

CASA has been advised of several cases where belts have had to be replaced because the plastic shell/casing has broken on the buckle assembly (see figure 1 below).

At this time, the airworthiness concern described in this Airworthiness Bulletin is not considered an unsafe condition that would warrant an Airworthiness Directive to be issued under Part 39 of the Civil Aviation Safety Regulations 1998.

In one case part of the plastic shell was missing and the belt tongue was forced into the buckle in the wrong location between the guide (indicated by middle arrow in figure 1 below) and casing and jammed within the mechanism in the location shown by the lower arrow in figure 1 below. The passenger was unable to release the belt in the normal manner without the assistance of a sharp object being used to force open the latch (see upper arrow in figure 1 below).

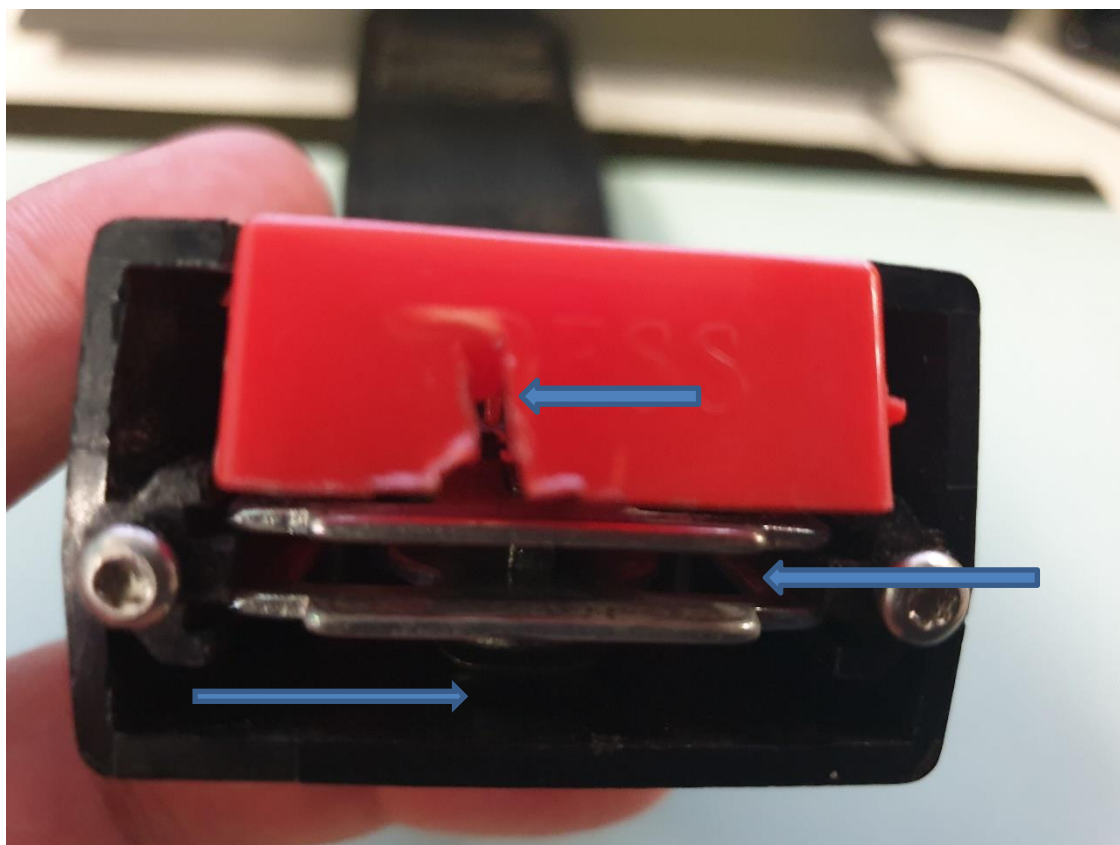


Figure 1: Showing buckle with front plastic shell missing

4. Recommendations

All operators should regularly check the buckle for cracks in the plastic case which could be indicative that it is about to separate from the buckle.

The failure of the plastic case may affect the functional crashworthiness of the belt (if the tongue is not properly latched in the guide), and its ability to protect the occupant. A failed plastic cover may foul the latch mechanism, allow improper insertion of the belt tongue and also allow debris and other foreign objects inside the assembly.

If any damage is found, it is strongly advised that the manufacturer be contacted for further advice and the belt be removed from service for repair.

5. Reporting

Report any findings using the CASA SDR system.



6. Enquiries

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

AirworthinessBulletin@casa.gov.au

or in writing, to:

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