

AWB 01-11 Issue 1 - Suspected Unapproved Parts

Parts distributed by Panaviation s.r.l.

AWB 01-11 Issue 1, 11 February 2002

Suspected Unapproved Parts

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Effectivity

All parts distributed by Panaviation s.r.l.

Purpose

The purpose of this Bulletin is to alert all aircraft owners, operators, maintenance organisations, manufacturers and parts distributors that any part distributed by Panaviation s.r.l. may have been altered and misrepresented by a non-approved source.

Background

Panaviation s.r.l. based in Rome - Ciampino airport, is an Italian distributor supplying aircraft components all over the world. They have never been approved nor have they had any sort of recognition by Ente Nazionale per l'Aviazione Civile (ENAC), the Italian Civil Aviation Authority.

ENAC has alerted all National Aviation Authorities that ENAC have been requested to co-operate with an Italian prosecutor in a criminal investigation against this organisation. Following inspections of Panaviation s.r.l. facilities ENAC revealed the following technical findings.

1. An unapproved workshop has been found to practice disassembling, assembling, measuring, cutting, grinding, cleaning, sheet metal working, and altering the physical conditions of the aviation parts. Tools and equipment for counterfeit and fraudulent identification of documentation and metal data plates have been found.
2. In the warehouse aviation parts have been found poorly packed, improperly handled and badly stored, including avionics and mechanical components with special handling requirements.
3. Parts involved in accidents have been shipped to customer or repair facilities for airworthiness certification without revealing the true conditions or history of the parts.
4. Critical parts previously deemed unairworthy by aviation organisations and sold as scrap have been prepared for shipment with documentation indicating, "overhauled".

5. Evidence of falsification of release documentation (e.g. JAA Form One and FAA 8130-3) has been observed.

Due to the extensive scope of activities and the unreliability of any documentation provided by the organisation, no list of affected parts is available and ENAC concluded that any part distributed by Panaviation s.r.l. has been potentially altered and should be considered unairworthy.

ENAC also advise that equivalent investigations by the Italian prosecutor are in progress against the following distributors, unapproved organisations commercially linked with Panaviation s.r.l: New Tech Italia and New Tech Aerospace. ENAC will provide further information when available.

Recommendation

Aircraft owners, operators, maintenance and distributor organisations are advised to review their aircraft records and/or aircraft parts inventory for parts supplied by Panaviation s.r.l.

Where a part is found installed on an aircraft, appropriate action should be taken in relation to the safety implications associated to their operation.

Where a part is found in existing inventories, it is recommended that the part be quarantined until determination can be made regarding the eligibility for installation.

Examples of actions that would be appropriate to determine the eligibility for installation are:

1. Any marking, maintenance release and history record must be traced to and cross checked with the approved origins this is imperative to any life limited component; and
2. The component(s) is subjected to a maintenance programme based on the worst combination of unusual events (accident, immersion, lighting, extreme temperature and/or stress etc) as it would have affected the item(s).

Any part supplied by New Tech Italia and New Tech Aerospace should also be treated with caution, subject to extensive verification checks and traced back to the approved origin.

For Further Information

Further information regarding this investigation may be obtained from:

Safety Department
Ente Nazionale per l'Aviazione Civile
Piazzale degli Archivi, 41
00144 Roma
Italy

ENAC would appreciate information regarding the discovery of the above referenced parts from any source, and the action taken to remove the part from service or stock.