

AWB 01-16 Issue 1 - Suspected Unapproved parts produced by M and M International Aerospace Metals, Inc.

AWB 01-16 Issue 1, 29 March 2006

Suspected Unapproved parts produced by M and M International Aerospace Metals, Inc.

Effectivity

All aircraft.

Purpose

The purpose of this notification is to advise all aircraft owners, operators, maintenance organizations, manufacturers, and parts suppliers and distributors regarding raw metal sold with altered material certification.

This Airworthiness Bulletin is a reprint of FAA Unapproved Parts Notification No. 2004-00167 that was issued by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) with additions to the reporting aspects for Australia.

Background

Information received during a Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) suspected unapproved parts investigation revealed that M&M International Aerospace Metals, Inc. (M&M), located at 1382 West McNab Road, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33309, may have knowingly sold raw metal that was offered as meeting the applicable Mil Spec but did not. M&M sold the raw metal to various distributors, type certificate holders, production approval holders, experimental aircraft distributors, as well as a variety of military and commercial applications.

Evidence indicates that M&M may have deliberately altered material certifications in order to satisfy customer requirements when they knew that the material did not meet the full requirements. The following changes were found:

- Specification numbers were added.
- Quantities were changed.
- Heat-treat certifications were altered.

Chemical analysis requirements were added.

Hardness test results were changed.

Names of required mills were changed to match purchase order requirements.

The Offices of the US Inspector General for the Department of Transportation, US Department of Defense, US Department of Energy (DOE), National Aeronautics and Space Administration, and the FAA conducted an investigation. DOE and FAA performed tests on the materials and examined purchase orders; these tests revealed nonconformance with the purchase orders.

Recommendations

Regulations require that type-certificated products conform to their type design. Aircraft owners, operators, maintenance organizations, manufacturers, and parts suppliers and distributors should inspect their records for raw metal purchased from M&M and examine those records for alterations. If material certifications are suspected of being altered, it is recommended that the original certificate supplier be contacted for a copy of the original certification, or independent tests be run for the original purchase order requirements. If the material is determined to be nonconforming, the stock - or parts made from the stock - should undergo an engineering analysis that is based on the material's location or use in its proposed application.

Further information

Further information concerning this investigation and guidance regarding the above-referenced raw material can be obtained from the FAA Manufacturing Inspection District Office (MIDO) given below. The FAA and CASA would appreciate any information concerning the discovery of this material from any source, the means used to identify the source, any action allowing the material to remain in service, and any action taken to remove the material from service. Any discovery of such material should be reported through the Suspected Unapproved Parts part of the Service Difficulty Reporting (SDR) system.

The FAA notice originated from the FAA Orlando MIDO, 5950 Hazeltine National Drive, Suite 405, Orlando, FL 32822, telephone (407) 855-9050, fax (407) 438-1900; and was published through the FAA Suspected Unapproved Parts Program Office, AVS-20, telephone (703) 668-3720, fax (703) 481-3002.

Enquiries

Enquiries with regard to the content of this Airworthiness Bulletin should be made via the direct link e-mail address included on the Airworthiness Bulletin web site, AirworthinessBulletin@casa.gov.au or in writing to the Manufacturing, Certification and New Technology Office, GPO Box 2005, Canberra, ACT, 2601