

November 17, 2010

Service Information Letter

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Subject:

Propeller Flutter

Applicability:

Model 208 and 208B with STC10841SC conversion applied.

Background:

Over the past several months, Supervan Systems Ltd. has noticed that the Hartzell HC-B4TN-5QL/LT10890NK propeller has shown signs of propeller flutter upon application of reverse thrust during landings. In response to this condition, Hartzell and Supervan Systems Ltd. have undergone testing Hartzell HC-B4TN-5QL/LT10890NK propeller under these conditions and have determined that a notable danger exists if propeller reversing is selected above 65 knots. A newly designed propeller is currently in testing and will be made available upon verification of the flutter resolution. Until the propeller has been replaced a limitation of propeller reversing at or below 65knots should be observed. The replacement of the Hartzell HC-B4TN-5QL/LT10890NK propeller will be mandatory.

Discussion:

The purpose of this Service Information Letter (SIL) is to inform operators and maintenance technicians of a potential for failure of the Hartzell HC-B4TN-5QL/LT10890NK. Figure 1 shows the stress concentration locations that should be inspected prior to each flight. The new design is in the process of being approved and notification of availability will be made per Service Bulletin No. SB-208-5. Regular preflight inspections of the Hartzell HC-B4TN-5QL/LT10890NK propeller are essential towards preventing a possible failure.

WARNING: AVOID THE USE OF PROPELLER REVERSE THRUST ABOVE 65 KNOTS DURING LANDING. FAILURE TO DO SO MAY LEAD TO BLADE SEPARATION WHICH IN TURN CAN LEAD TO LOSS OF CONTROL OF THE AIRCRAFT. THIS CONDITION MAY RESULT IN DEATH, SERIOUS BODILY INJURY, AND/OR SUBSTANTIAL PROPERTY DAMAGE.

WARNING: THE SUDDEN ONSET OF UNUSUAL VIBRATION CAN BE AN INDICATION OF A FAILING HUB, PROPELLER BLADE, BLADE RETENTION, OR PITCH CHANGE COMPONENT. BLADE SEPARATION MAY RESULT IN DEATH, SERIOUS BODILY INJURY, AND/OR SUBSTANTIAL PROPERTY DAMAGE. THIS CONDITION DEMANDS IMMEDIATE INSPECTION FOR POSSIBLE CRACKED HUB, BLADE, BLADE RETENTION OR PITCH CHANGE COMPONENT.

Contact:

Concerns regarding this design update can be addressed electronically by writing to info@supervansystems.com or by calling 972.382.4402.