



SAIB: CE-09-01

Date: October 21, 2008

SUBJ: Equipment - Emergency

This is information only. Recommendations aren't mandatory.

Introduction

This Special Airworthiness Information Bulletin (SAIB) advises you of an airworthiness concern regarding the safety of rescue personnel responding to accident airplanes equipped with a ballistic parachute system that has not been activated. Specifically, this SAIB addresses the need for placards on aircraft equipped with a ballistic parachute system. The placards are to alert rescue personnel to the presence and potential danger of the onboard parachute system that may still be active. Type-certificated airplanes equipped with the ballistic parachute system include: Cirrus Design Corporation (CDC) Models SR20 and SR22; Symphony Aircraft Industries, Inc. Model SA 160 with Supplemental Type Certificate (STC) SA02239CH installed; Cessna Models 150, 150A, 150B, 150C, 150D, 150E, 150F, 150G, 150H, 150J, 150K, 150L, 150M, A150K, A150L, A150M, 152, and A152 (with STC SA64CH installed); Cessna Models 172, 172A, 172B, 172C, 172D, 172E, 172F, 172G, 172H, 172I, 172K, 172L, 172M, 172N, 172P, 172Q, 172R, 172S, R172J and R172K (with STC SA01679CH installed); 182G, 182H, 182J, 182K, 182L, 182M, 182N, 182P, 182Q, 182R, 182S, 182T, T182, and T182T (with STC SA01999CH installed).

Background

The FAA has received recommendations regarding the need for improved placards on airplanes equipped with a ballistic parachute system. These recommendations came from reports of rescue personnel approaching accident airplanes, unaware of the danger associated with active ballistic parachute systems within the accident airplanes. The rocket deploys from the aircraft at a high rate of speed and could severely injure or kill unknowing persons in the vicinity of the rocket.

Regulatory, first responder and industry groups assembled to establish standards for the installation and marking of ballistic parachute systems, resulting in standard ASTM F 2316-06 "Standard Specification for Airframe Emergency Parachutes for Light Sport Aircraft". The standard used internationally-recognized protocols to develop the placard design. The Small Airplane Directorate has proposed using the placard requirements found in ASTM document F 2316-06 for part 23 type-certificated airplanes with ballistic parachute systems installed.

The FAA is taking this airworthiness action after receiving input from Cirrus Design Corporation and airplane owners/operators through relevant associations and type clubs. In addition, we also collected input from several firefighting organizations including International Association of Fire Chiefs, Airport Rescue and Fire Fighting working group, and the National Fire Protection Association. Recommendations were developed using the procedures found in the Small Airplane Directorate Airworthiness Directives Manual Supplement (Airworthiness Concern Process Guide).

At this time, this airworthiness concern is not considered an unsafe condition that would warrant an airworthiness directive action under Title 14 of the Code of Federal Regulations (14 CFR part 39).

Recommendations

We recommend that all that make/model airplanes affected in the list above be equipped with ASTM-conforming placards suitable to draw the attention of first responders. ASTM F 2316-06 specifies that the aircraft should be externally marked with one danger placard at the exit point of the rocket/parachute and another warning placard on either side of the aircraft that is visible to those entering or approaching the aircraft.

Placard kits for airplanes that have ballistic parachute systems manufactured by Ballistic Recovery Systems (BRS), including Cirrus aircraft, are available for purchase from BRS at (651) 457-7491. The placards are identified by: danger placard part number 006230-01 (one placard) and warning placard part number 006231-01 (two placards). The combined kit is available for \$10. BRS has been shipping placards that meet ASTM standard F 2316-06 for some time. If your airplane is currently equipped with placards, please check with BRS to see if they are identical to the placards referenced above.

For Further Information Contact

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