

UNAPPROVED PARTS NOTIFICATION



U.S. Department
of Transportation
**Federal Aviation
Administration**

SUSPECTED UNAPPROVED PARTS PROGRAM OFFICE, AVR-20
45005 AVIATION DRIVE, SUITE 214
DULLES, VA 20166-7541

No. 97-012
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*UPNs are posted on the internet at <http://www.faa.gov/avr/sups.htm>
(search words "unapproved" "parts")*

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AFFECTED PARTS

All propellers maintained, altered, or approved for return to service by Thunderbird Propellers, Inc., of Bethany, OK.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this notification is to advise all aircraft owners, operators, maintenance organizations, parts suppliers, and distributors regarding propellers improperly maintained, altered, or approved for return to service by Thunderbird Propellers, Inc. (Thunderbird), 5410 N. Rockwell, Bethany, OK 73008. Thunderbird previously held Air Agency Certificate No. IG2R897K.

BACKGROUND

Information received during a Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) suspected unapproved parts investigation revealed that Thunderbird had failed to accomplish maintenance in accordance with the manufacturers' maintenance manuals or FAA-accepted procedures. Improper procedures included machining and shotpeening of propellers that may have obliterated defects that were beyond repairable limits. Evidence indicated that Thunderbird installed incorrect hardware and falsified work orders and other documentation associated with approving the propellers for return to service. The FAA has been unable to determine the exact time span during which these improprieties occurred; therefore, all propellers are considered suspect.

RECOMMENDATION

Regulations require that type-certificated products conform to their type design. Aircraft owners, operators, maintenance organizations, parts suppliers, and distributors should inspect their aircraft, aircraft records, and/or aircraft parts inventories for any propeller work accomplished by Thunderbird. If any propellers are installed on aircraft, appropriate action should be taken. If any are found in existing aircraft stock, it is recommended that the propellers be quarantined to prevent installation until a determination can be made regarding each propeller's eligibility for installation.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Further information may be obtained from the FAA Flight Standards District Office (FSDO) given below. The FAA would appreciate any information concerning the discovery of the above-referenced propellers from any source, the means used to identify the source, and the action taken to remove the propellers from service.

This notice originated from the Oklahoma City FSDO, 1300 S. Meridian Blvd., Suite 601, Oklahoma City, OK 73108, telephone (405) 951-4200, fax (405) 951-4282; and was published through the FAA Suspected Unapproved Parts Program Office, AVR-20, telephone (703) 661-0581, fax (703) 661-0113.