

UNAPPROVED PARTS NOTIFICATION

SUSPECTED UNAPPROVED PARTS PROGRAM OFFICE, AVR-20
13873 PARK CENTER ROAD, SUITE 165
HERNDON, VA 20171



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

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AFFECTED PARTS

Life rafts and life vests approved for return to service by Inflatable Services, Inc.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this notification is to advise all aircraft owners, operators, manufacturers, maintenance organizations, and parts distributors regarding improper maintenance performed on life rafts and life vests by Inflatable Services, Inc.

BACKGROUND

Information received during a Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) suspected unapproved parts (SUP) investigation revealed that Inflatable Services, Inc. (Inflatable Services), may have improperly approved life rafts and life vests for return to service between October 2000 and May 2002. Inflatable Services, located at 990 W. State Road 84, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33315, previously held Air Agency Certificate No. LE4R333M.

Evidence indicated that Inflatable Services failed to accomplish maintenance in accordance with the manufacturers' maintenance manuals; Instructions for Continued Airworthiness; or other methods, techniques, and practices acceptable to the FAA. Discrepancies noted on a life raft included excessive air leakage, a non-conforming inflation cylinder, and non-conforming survival kit contents. The FAA has been unable to determine all the life rafts and life vests affected; therefore, those approved for return to service during the time frame specified above should be considered suspect.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Regulations require that type-certificated products conform to their type design and be properly maintained using current data, required equipment, and appropriately trained personnel. Aircraft owners, operators, manufacturers, maintenance organizations, and parts distributors should inspect their aircraft and/or parts inventory for any parts approved for return to service by Inflatable Services during the time frame specified above. Appropriate action should be taken if any of these parts have been installed on an aircraft. If any existing inventory includes these parts, the FAA recommends that you quarantine the parts to prevent installation on an aircraft until a determination can be made regarding each part's eligibility for installation.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Further information may be obtained from the FAA Flight Standards District Office (FSDO) shown below. The FAA would appreciate any information regarding the discovery of the above-referenced parts from any source and the action taken to remove them from inventory or service. This notice originated from the Fort Lauderdale FSDO, 1050 Lee Wagener Blvd., Fort Lauderdale, FL 33315, telephone (954) 356-7520, fax (954) 356-7531; and was published through the FAA Suspected Unapproved Parts Program Office, AVR-20, telephone (703) 668-3720, fax (703) 481-3002.