

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

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UPNs are posted on the internet at <http://www.faa.gov/avr/sups.htm>

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AFFECTED PARTS

Heat-treated aluminum parts.

INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this notification is to advise all aircraft owners and operators, maintenance organizations, manufacturers, and parts distributors regarding aluminum parts that have been improperly heat-treated.

BACKGROUND

Information received during a Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) suspected unapproved parts investigation indicated that West Coast Aluminum Heat Treat (WCAHT), formerly located at 14365 Macaw St., La Mirada, CA 90638, had improperly heat-treated numerous aluminum parts having aviation applications. WCAHT was engaged in the business of heat-treating all stages of aluminum parts, many of which were used in a wide variety of military and commercial aircraft applications. WCAHT was approved to perform heat-treating for many production approval holders. The investigation disclosed that from 1981 to March 1997, WCAHT improperly heat-treated and falsified quality testing on parts that are used in various type-certificated aircraft. The FAA observed re-testing of some parts identified as having been heat-treated by WCAHT. The test results indicated that some parts did not meet the hardness and/or conductivity requirements.

The listing of the affected part numbers (**12,000 plus distinct parts**) can be viewed at the following Internet URL:

http://www.faa.gov/avr/sups/heat_treated.htm

RECOMMENDATIONS

Regulations require that type-certificated products conform to their type design. Aircraft owners and operators, manufacturers, maintenance organizations, and parts distributors are encouraged to inspect their aircraft and/or aircraft parts inventory for the identified part numbers. Parts that cannot be determined to conform to the approved type design should be considered suspect and appropriate action taken. The parts in question do not display any external readily identifiable features or markings to distinguish them from properly heat-treated parts; therefore, documentation associated with parts should be reviewed to determine the source of heat-treating. Parts heat-treated by WCAHT may require hardness and/or conductivity testing.

FURTHER INFORMATION

The FAA Certificate Management Office – Boeing (CMO) listed below would appreciate any information that you could provide concerning the discovery of these parts from any source, the means used to identify the source, and the actions taken to remove the parts from aircraft and/or stock. This notice originated from the FAA Transport Airplane Directorate Certificate Management Office – Boeing, Suite C-2, 2500 East Valley Road, Renton, WA 98055-4056, telephone (425) 227-2170, fax (425) 227-1159; and was published through the FAA Suspected Unapproved Parts Program Office, AVR-20, telephone (703) 661-0581, fax (703) 661-0113.