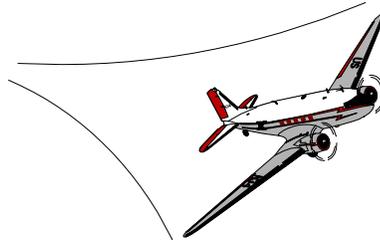


SPECIAL AIRWORTHINESS INFORMATION BULLETIN



U.S. Department
of Transportation

**Federal Aviation
Administration**

CE-04-59
March 30, 2004

Aircraft Certification Service
Washington, DC

www.faa.gov/certification/aircraft

This is information only. Recommendations aren't mandatory.

Introduction

This Special Airworthiness Information Bulletin alerts you, owners and operators of a **LET AERONAUTICAL WORKS Model L-13 Blanik glider**, that LETECKÉ ZÁVODY a.s. has issued Mandatory Bulletin No. L13/103a to address the installation of a new handle for the flap control lever. This manufacturer's bulletin specifies the installation of a new handle over the existing handle within three (3) months after receiving this manufacturer's notice.

Background

The FAA has received Safety Recommendation No. 02.009 (issued October 18, 2001), which addresses an accident involving the use of the L-13 flight control handles. The issue involved a pilot who confused the flap handle with the air brake handle during operation. These two (2) handles have very similar ergonomics and are located in close proximity of each other when in the stowed position. Numerous occurrences have been acknowledged from the gliding community concerning this issue. LET has responded by implementing a change to the existing flap control lever via a service bulletin.

Recommendation

We recommend that registered owners of LET L-13 gliders seriously consider accomplishing the actions of LETECKÉ ZÁVODY Bulletin No. L13/103a, per manufacturer's requirements. We have attached their bulletin.

For Further Information Contact

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LETECKÉ ZÁVODY a.s. Kunovice 686 04; phone: 42-572-817-650; fax: 42-572-817-653; or:

Blanik America, Inc., P.O. Box 1124, Wenatchee, WA 98807-1124; phone: (509) 884-8305; fax: (509) 884-9198



MANDATORY BULLETIN

MB No.: L13/103a

Concerning: All L-13 gliders under the US register

Reason: Installation of new handles of flaps control levers to enlarge the difference between the flaps and air-brakes levers handles

To be carried out not later than: Three (3) months after the bulletin receiving

To be carried out by: Operator

Costs covered by: Operator

Necessary material to be supplied by: LETECKÉ ZÁVODY a.s. Kunovice
Czech Republic
based on a customer order

Bulletin becomes effective: On the day of CAA CZ approval

Sheets: 2

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Manufacturer

Engineering data contained in this Bulletin is CAA Approved

Date:

