

UNAPPROVED PARTS NOTIFICATION

Aircraft Certification Service



FAA
Aviation Safety

No.: 2024-AAE-EHL-20230608-303

Date: 2/24/2024

<http://www.faa.gov/aircraft/safety/programs/sups/upn>

AFFECTED PRODUCTS

Articles manufactured and/or distributed by Southern Aero, LLC. for installation on Franklin Aircraft Engines, articles such as cylinder liners, valve springs, piston rings, hardware for cylinders and overhaul gasket kits.

PURPOSE

This notification advises all aircraft owners, operators, manufacturers, maintenance organizations, and parts suppliers and distributors of engine articles manufactured and distributed without Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) production approval.

BACKGROUND

Information discovered during an FAA Suspected Unapproved Parts (SUP) investigation revealed that between June 2010 and present, Southern Aero, LLC, located at 147 Commercial Park Drive, Thomasville, North Carolina 27360, produced and sold numerous articles for installation on Franklin Aircraft Engines without the approval and authorization of the FAA and FAA design holder.

The subject engine articles produced and/or sold by Southern Aero and may have these characteristics such as, but not limited to:

- Parts and packaging with no identifying markings. (Quantity All)
- Parts and packaging with no shelf-life information. (Quantity All)
- Cylinder Liner's part number (P/N) -17518 with no identifying markings or certification documentation. (Quantity All)
- Piston Ring P/N-AE50522 with no identifying markings or certification documents. (Quantity All)
- Cylinder Base O-Ring P/N 15177 with no identifying markings or certification documents. (Quantity All)
- Cylinder Base Nut- P/N 19485 with no identifying markings or certification documents. (Quantity All)
- Oil Pan Gasket- P/N 10366 with no packaging and no shelf-life information. (Quantity All)
- No accompanying traceability or certification documentation to the original manufacturer or evidence that the parts were produced by an FAA-approved manufacturer.

RECOMMENDATIONS

FAA regulations require that type-certificated products conform to their type design. The FAA encourages aircraft owners, operators, manufacturers, maintenance organizations, and parts suppliers and distributors to inspect their aircraft and/or aircraft parts inventory for any articles produced and/or sold by Southern Aero, LLC. If these articles are found in existing inventory or installed in an FAA type-certificated aircraft, the FAA recommends that they be quarantined to prevent installation or use until a determination can be made regarding their eligibility for installation or replaced with FAA-approved articles.

FURTHER INFORMATION

You may obtain further information concerning this investigation from the FAA Certificate Management Section below. In addition to the above recommendations, the FAA would appreciate any information concerning the discovery of the above referenced articles from any source, the means used to identify the source, and the actions taken to remove the articles from the aircraft and/or parts inventories.

This notification originated from the FAA Atlanta Certificate Management Section,
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