

# UNAPPROVED PARTS NOTIFICATION

Aircraft Certification Service



**FAA**  
Aviation Safety

No.: 1998-00233<sub>(rev)</sub>

Date: April 12, 2001 *(revised September 10, 2010)*

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

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## **AFFECTED AIRCRAFT:**

Bell Helicopter Models: 222B, 222U, 230, 430, and 412;

Boeing Models: 737, 747, 757, DC-8, DC-9, DC-10, MD-11, MD-80, and MD-90 series.

## **PURPOSE:**

This notification advises all owners, operators, maintenance entities, and manufacturers of the above aircraft, of numerous parts being produced that may not conform to the approved type design data.

## **BACKGROUND:**

Information received during a Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) suspected unapproved parts investigation revealed West Coast Aluminum Heat Treat (WCAHT), 14365 Macaw St., La Mirada, California 90638 had produced numerous aluminum products that may not have been properly heat-treated. 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 programs. 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 which were used in various type certified aircraft. The FAA has witnessed some retesting of parts identified as being heat-treated by WCAHT, resulting in some not meeting the Hardness or/and Conductivity requirements.

Additionally, there may be a number of military surplus parts that were tested and certified by WCAHT that may come into the commercial parts market.

No unsafe conditions within the meaning of Title 14 Code of Federal Regulations, part 39, Airworthiness Directives, were discovered during our investigation. The parts in question do not display any external readily identifiable features, or markings from properly processed parts, however material certification records will determine the facility which conducted processing.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS:**

Type Certificated products are required to conform to their type design. Aircraft owners, operators, manufacturers, maintenance entities, and aircraft parts distributors are encouraged to inspect their aircraft and/or aircraft parts inventory for parts with WCAHT material certifications from 1981 to 1997. Parts which cannot be determined to conform to the approved type design should be considered suspect and appropriate action taken.

**FURTHER INFORMATION:**

You can obtain further information concerning this investigation and guidance regarding the above referenced parts from the FAA Certificate Management Office – Boeing (CMO) listed below. In addition, we 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 them from aircraft and/or stock.

This notice originated from the FAA Transport Airplane Directorate Certificate Management Office – Boeing, 1601 Lind Ave SW, Renton, WA 98057, telephone (425) 917-6529, fax (425) 917-6590.