

UNAPPROVED PARTS NOTIFICATION

Aircraft Certification Service



FAA
Aviation Safety

No.: 2012-20111202018

Date: July 19, 2012

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

AFFECTED PRODUCTS:

Airplane Seat Belt Extenders, style number 12559, sold by Travel Caddy, Inc. d/b/a Travelon to markets who in turn sold them via online.

PURPOSE:

This notification advises all aircraft owners, operators, manufacturers, maintenance organizations, and parts suppliers and distributors regarding seat belt extenders s parts produced without Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) production approval.

BACKGROUND:

Information received during an FAA suspected unapproved parts investigation revealed that, Travel Caddy, Inc. d/b/a Travelon, 700 Touhy Avenue, Elk Grove Village, Illinois 60007, sold unapproved seat belt extenders, part number 12559, Seat Belt Extender-A without FAA TSO Authorization that were provided to them by a supplier, TS Auto Parts, Co., Ltd, Zhejiang, China, who had represented to them that the item was compliant with all applicable FAA regulations and contained all required labeling. Consequently, it was found that these Airplane Seat Belt Extenders were not manufactured and tested to the necessary standards required for use on U.S. certificated aircraft.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

Regulations require that type-certificated products conform to their type design. Aircraft owners, operators, manufacturers, maintenance organizations, and parts suppliers and distributors are encouraged to inspect their aircraft and/or parts inventories for the referenced Travelon seat belt extenders. If these Airplane Seat Belt Extenders are found in existing inventory, it is recommended that they be quarantined to prevent installation until a determination can be made regarding their origin and eligibility for installation.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

You can obtain further information concerning this investigation from the FAA Manufacturing Inspection District Office (MIDO) listed below. In addition to the above recommendations, the FAA would appreciate any information concerning the discovery of the above-referenced Seat Belt Extenders from any source, the means used to identify the source, and the actions taken to remove them from aircraft and/or parts inventories.

This notification originated from the FAA Vandalia Manufacturing Inspection District Office (MIDO), 303 Corporate Center Drive, Ste. 312, Vandalia, Ohio 4577, telephone (937) 898-3991, fax (937) 898-8717.