

UNAPPROVED PARTS NOTIFICATION

SUSPECTED UNAPPROVED PARTS PROGRAM OFFICE, AVR-20
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U.S. Department
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**Federal Aviation
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AFFECTED AIRCRAFT

All aircraft.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this notification is to advise all aircraft owners, operators, maintenance organizations, manufacturers, and parts distributors regarding the production and sale of non-conforming **grease fittings**.

BACKGROUND

Information received during a Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) suspected unapproved parts (SUP) investigation revealed that **Alemite Corp.**, 167 Rowland Dr., Johnson City, TN 37601, produced and sold non-conforming grease fittings (part no. 1992B1). Alemite traced the flawed production to a broken drill bit. The discrepant grease fittings have insufficient grease hole depth that interferes with the passage of grease. The grease fittings are typically used in aircraft hydraulic actuators for flight controls, landing gear systems, and passenger and cargo doors; or in any location on an aircraft that would require a grease fitting to lubricate a moving part.

Alemite Corp. may have sold approximately 65,000 fittings to aviation and non-aviation manufacturers, parts distributors, suppliers, and repair stations from March 1999 to June 2000. The majority of sales were to non-aviation entities; however, shipments made to, and distributed by, Honeywell, Inc., Salt Lake City, UT, revealed non-conforming fittings. Non-conforming fittings were detected in May and June 1999 shipments from Honeywell, Inc., to B.F. Goodrich/Tramco, Everett, WA, and in shipments to Hydro-Mill Co., Chatsworth, CA.

RECOMMENDATION

Aircraft owners, operators, maintenance organizations, manufacturers, and distributors should inspect their aircraft, aircraft records, and/or parts inventories for the above-referenced grease fittings. If any of the grease fittings are found in existing parts inventory, it is recommended that the grease fitting be quarantined to prevent installation until a determination can be made regarding each grease fitting's eligibility for installation. Either prior to or following the installation of any grease fitting, a common safety practice is to verify grease flow through the fitting.