

UNAPPROVED PARTS NOTIFICATION



U.S. Department
of Transportation
**Federal Aviation
Administration**

SUSPECTED UNAPPROVED PARTS PROGRAM OFFICE, AVR-20
13873 PARK CENTER ROAD, SUITE 165
HERNDON, VA 20171

UPNs are posted on the Internet at <http://www.faa.gov/avr/sups/upn.cfm>

No. 2004-00120
December 23, 2004

Mailed by: FAA, AIR-140, P.O. Box 26460, Oklahoma City, OK 73125

AFFECTED PARTS

Propellers and propeller governors.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this notification is to advise all aircraft owners, operators, maintenance organizations, manufacturers, and parts distributors regarding improper maintenance performed on aircraft propellers and propeller governors.

BACKGROUND

Information received during a Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) suspected unapproved parts investigation revealed that between December 2003 and May 2004, Prop Center, located at 1985 North Marshall Avenue, #107, El Cajon, CA 92020, improperly maintained and approved for return to service propellers and propeller governors applicable to various types of aircraft. Prop Center previously held Air Agency Certificate No. PC7R081J, with limited propeller and accessory ratings. Discrepancies noted in Prop Center's practices included:

- Approving for return to service propellers described as having been overhauled when, in fact, the propellers had not been disassembled, cleaned, inspected, repaired as necessary, and reassembled using methods, techniques, and practices acceptable to the Administrator.
- Performing major alterations and repairs without using data approved by the Administrator.
- Approving for return to service propellers and propeller governors that had not been maintained in accordance with the current manufacturer's maintenance manual or methods otherwise acceptable to the Administrator.
- Falsifying maintenance record entries by approving for return to service propellers and propeller governors during the period that Prop Center's Air Agency Certificate was suspended.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Regulations require that type-certificated products conform to their type design. Aircraft owners, operators, maintenance organizations, and parts suppliers and distributors should inspect their aircraft, aircraft records, and/or parts inventories for propellers or propeller governors approved for return to service by Prop Center. Suspect products and parts installed on aircraft should be inspected for conformity to type design. If any are found in existing stock, it is recommended that the products or parts be quarantined to prevent installation until a determination can be made regarding each product's or part's eligibility for installation.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Further information concerning this investigation, and guidance regarding the above-referenced products and parts, can be obtained from the FAA Flight Standards District Offices (FSDO) given below. The FAA would appreciate any information concerning the discovery of the above-referenced parts from any source, the means used to identify the source, and the actions taken to remove the products and parts from aircraft and/or stock.

This notice originated from the FAA San Diego FSDO, 8525 Gibbs Drive, Suite 120, San Diego, CA 92123, telephone (619) 557-5281, X 229, fax (619) 557-7156 and the FAA Portland FSDO, 3180 NW 229th Avenue, Hillsboro, OR 97124, telephone (503) 615-3236, fax (503) 615-3300; and was published through the FAA Suspected Unapproved Parts Program Office, AVR-20, telephone (703) 668-3720, fax (703) 481-3002.