

COMMANDER PREMIER AIRCRAFT CPAC, INC.



The President's update on repair options for the recent discovery of cracks in the outboard elevator hinge area.

Fellow Commander Owners,

As many of you know the FAA issued Interim AD 2011-07-13 last Monday April 5th. The Interim AD outlines an aggressive inspection process that is designed to identify cracks in the elevator spar's outboard hinge area. The AD will also assist the FAA in determining the number of aircraft affected. As an interim AD the FAA is inviting the public as well as user comments through May 19th 2011. After reviewing the submissions the "terminating action" for the AD will be determined and then promulgated.

We encourage all of you to have your planes inspected as soon as possible so that we all, as a community, can learn the extent and parameters of this problem, and so that the FAA will have sooner, rather than later, the information it needs to make its further decisions.

For those of you who find cracks and are able to remain grounded while the FAA undertakes its further considerations, we suggest you do so, as the clarity of your options and costs can only improve over the next few months.

We have developed the following options if a crack is discovered in the elevator spar outboard hinge area for US registered aircraft. We feel timing may be the major variable in making your repair decision.

Only DER approved repairs or PMA'd/STC'd replacement parts may be utilized in accomplishing repairs for cracks discovered while accomplishing AD 2011-01-03. Non-US registered aircraft must conform to their local regulatory guidelines.

If you want to be flying again immediately you may want to consider one of the following:

You can immediately send your elevator to AAS in Oklahoma City, Ok for spar repair/replacement. Our FAA Structural DER is also in Oklahoma City and can assist when needed. AAS has already repaired two elevators. You can contact Dale at AAS directly at 405 789 5474 or dale@associatedaero.com to schedule your work.

Additionally, AAS is developing a menu of specific repair options, including pricing that you will be able to review, evaluate and then make your selection. Once this menu is developed it will be made available on Associated Aero's web site as well as commanderpremier.com and commander.org.

Another facility that can accommodate your elevator spar repair is Aerodyme Corporation, in Vermont. You may contact Jim Richards at 802 264 6400 or jrichards@aerodyme.com to schedule your repair. Aerodyme is working on understanding the issue and thus a modification.

Another option to consider is to simply delay until after the FAA's final ruling or terminating action to the AD is promulgated.

We are working closely with an old CAC vendor to procure additional spars. In addition, we are working closely with our contract FAA Structural DER to evaluate several modifications to minimize additional spar cracking.

Thank you for your continued support for CPAC, Inc. If you still have additional questions or concerns please contact Carl Gull, VP Ops, CPAC, Inc. 573 332 0880.

Sincerely,



Gregory L. Walker, President, CPAC, Inc.