



# THE GLIDING FEDERATION OF AUSTRALIA INC

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CANCELLED 20 OCT 2022  
REFER GFA AN144

## Airworthiness Alert 2015-1

### Overview

The GFA has received a Service Difficulty Report detailing extensive exfoliation corrosion on aileron flight control fittings fitted to a Puchatek KR-03A sailplane.

### Flight History

The affected sailplane was manufactured in 1993 and has completed 1500 hours. It has operated in a coastal environment.

### Action Taken

The affected sailplane was overdue for a life extension survey as required by GFA AD 337. During this survey it was discovered that both aileron drive rocker arms were severely corroded. Further, the aileron attachment fittings were also found corroded, one with extensive exfoliation corrosion. Subsequent further inspections of one other KR-03A revealed the same defect.

### Recommendation

When completing maintenance on this type, the inspector should be very conscious to the susceptibility of exfoliation corrosion on the Puchatek KR-03A sailplane. Sailplanes operating in a corrosive environment must be washed and lubricated on a more regular basis. Additionally, the surface finish must be maintained to a high standard. If light corrosion is detected, refer to the Maintenance Manual and/ or AC 43.13-1A Acceptable Methods, Techniques and Practices for advice on removal (mechanical and chemical), treatment (chemical) and finish restoration (paint systems). If exfoliation corrosion is identified, the component must be replaced, contact the Type Certificate Holder or this office for further advice.

It is recommended that all Puchatek KR-03A exposed flight controls should be inspected and if defects are identified, a Service Difficulty Report (SDR) should be submitted through the appropriate channels.

Dennis Stacey GFA CTO

29/07/2015