



THE GLIDING FEDERATION OF AUSTRALIA INC

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CANCELLED 25 OCT 2022
REFER GFA AM 088

Airworthiness Alert 2015-3

Overview

The GFA has received a Service Difficulty Report detailing the separation of the perspex canopy from the frame whilst on a winch launch.

Flight History

The affected sailplane was manufactured in 1988, the canopy perspex being the original unit. The SZD-51-1 Junior had just had completed its 3000 hr life extension inspection and at the time of the occurrence, had logged 3130 hours and 7268 landings.

Action Taken

Examination of sections of the perspex showed a clean separation with little to no glue attached; most was left on the frame. One GFA Approved Maintenance Organisation (AMO) advised and provided photographic evidence of dis-bonds due to glue failure on older SZD series sailplanes. The glue condition in the photos and also the sample of the canopy provided suggests it is most likely age related.

The Type Certificate (TC) holder has been advised, the TC holder stating that this is the first occurrence of this kind reported.

Recommendation

'SZD' sailplanes with perspex canopies that are original from manufacturer, carry out a detailed inspection and ascertain the integrity of the glue bond between the canopy perspex and frame. Rectify any canopy as required where a dis-bond is identified. Report any canopy bonding defects identified to cto@glidingaustralia.org.

Sailplanes identified having possible glue failure as detailed above are SZD-41A Jantar Standard; SZD-42-2 Jantar 2B; SZD -38A Jantar 1; SZD-42-1 Jantar 2; SZD-48-3 Jantar Standard 3; SZD-48 Jantar Standard 2; SZD-48-1 Jantar Standard 2; SZD-51-1 Junior; SZD-50-3 Puchacz; SZD-56-1 Diana; and SZD-55-1.

Dennis Stacey GFA CTO

08/09/2015