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Airworthiness Alert 2017-2 **SCHROTH Harness SIL SSP-007**

Background

SCHROTH issued SIL SSP-007 dated 9/01/2017 to advise aerobatic aircraft operators of potential issues with certain SCHROTH harness restraint systems if used for aerobatic flying. Affected restraint systems use various SCHROTH rotary buckle types, the identification of affected types listed within.

Investigation

SCHROTH has noted that in some cases it is possible that an individual latch of the restraint system could be unfastened from the buckle without prior activation of the release mechanism.

Investigation has shown that this effect is caused by certain patterns of load changes that typically occur during aerobatic flying in combination with very tightly attached belts. Such operating conditions may result in unusually high abrasive wear of the retaining pins and/or the latches which, in turn, creates the conditions for an inadvertent release of an individual latch.

Recommendation

The GFA recommends compliance with SIL SSP-007 with the noted exception of stalls and spins being permitted based on advice from the manufacturer.

Dennis Stacey GFA CTO
29/03/2017