



## THE GLIDING FEDERATION OF AUSTRALIA INC

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### **Airworthiness Alert 2017-4**

#### **Schleicher sailplanes fitted with Mid-West Engine Ltd, DAI GmbH, Austro Engine GmbH AE50R/ IAE50R Series Engines - Loose Exhaust Studs-**

**ASK 21 Mi, ASH 26E, ASH 30 Mi, ASH 31 Mi, ASG 32 Mi  
& powered sailplanes modified by STC/ Manufacturer**

#### **Overview**

*A Service Difficulty Report has been received on the ASK 21 Mi reporting that engine exhaust studs were found loose in their mount. This defect has been reported on a few late model ASK 21 Mi powered sailplanes.*

#### **Investigation**

*During maintenance of the engine, it was detected that the studs attaching the exhaust to the engine block had started to back and were leaking exhaust into the engine compartment. On one example, the studs could be removed with fingers indicating that the studs could have worked their way out completely. Later model Astro IAE50R-AA powered sailplanes seem to be affected. It is suspected the thread locker used at manufacture is failing.*

#### **Recommendation/Action**

*During next daily inspection, use torch and mirror and inspect for exhaust gas leakage. During the next engine maintenance or at the next annual inspection, remove engine, inspect and check torque exhaust mounting nut/studs. Any defects on inspection must be rectified. It is suggested in the case that a stud is found loose, the manufacture be contacted and a later designed stud be fitted.*

#### **Report**

*Submit a SDR/ defect report if an exhaust stud defect is identified.*

Dennis Stacey  
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