



February, 1998

Reference: STI AF-SBC-98-006

Special Technical Instruction - Possible cracking of the fuselage tube immediately to the rear of engine mount fuselage support brackets and rear anchor plate.

Problem: Two separate incidents have been reported to this factory of high hour training aircraft (approx. 1600 hrs & 900 hrs respectively) found to have cracking appear around the fuselage tube immediately to the rear of the engine mount fuselage support brackets.

The cracking appears to initiate from underneath the fuselage tube behind the anchor plate progressing around the tube towards the top of the fuselage immediately behind the engine mount fuselage support brackets.

Procedure: An approved inspection procedure is included with this STI. This procedure entails carefully cutting two inspection holes in the underneath side of the fuselage extension pans as per drawing SBC-002-234 attached. These two inspection holes are to be cut using a 2" hole saw and fitted with the circular doubler provided. These holes will then allow access to the affected area for inspection.

Action: Cut inspection holes and inspect possible affected area of fuselage tube before next flight and thereafter at 50 hour intervals.

Rectification:

An approved modification has been designed to prevent this problem occurring. The materials and installation instructions for this modification will be supplied at cost upon application the manufacturer. All future aircraft will incorporate this modification as standard.

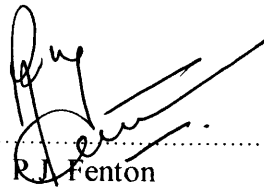
NOTE: As the two instances of cracking reported have occurred in training aircraft, operating mostly at MTOW and subject to constant take-offs and landings by students under instruction, it is possible that the problem will be confined to isolated cases of aircraft subject to the above type of utilisation. However, in the interests of safety the inspection procedure must be carried out immediately upon receipt of this advice.

Material Included:

Copy of Drawing No. SBC-002-234.
Two (2) Doubler Plates
Sixteen (16) CR3213 -4 rivets

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