

AIRWORTHINESS ALERT

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Tall Tails Manufactured by Owen Dull and Newo Gyros – All Models

Background

The manufacturer of these tall tails, which are in common use on gyroplanes throughout Australia, advised ASRA that an operator reported a vertical crack in the upper region of the trailing edge of the vertical stabilizer. The time in service of the subject tail was in the vicinity of 300 hours. Investigation has revealed that the most likely cause of the crack was movement and stress as a result of the gyroplane being transported by road on a trailer. The manufacturer advises that the static and flight-test programme that was undertaken during the manufacture of the prototypes did not reveal any weakness in this, or any other area of the tails. In addition, models of the tails in question have been operating for many hundreds of hours, in harsh operating conditions, without failure.

Recommendation

ASRA strongly recommends that the owners and operators of the tall tails described above inspect the trailing edges of the vertical and horizontal tail surfaces for the presence of cracks, before further flight. ASRA also recommends that, for gyroplanes fitted with this type of tall tail, alternatives to transporting on a trailer be investigated by the owner. In the event that this is not possible, a thorough inspection of the tall tail assembly is recommended before flight after such transportation.

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