

AUSTRALIAN SPORT ROTORCRAFT ASSOCIATION INC



ABN 53 412 417 012

SAFETY ALERT

No: 2019.02

Date: 10.07.2019

Subject: Liberty Sky stone guards

Background

The owner of an Autogyro MTO found it necessary to replace the stone guard on his Gyroplane. The replacement was supplied and fitted by Liberty Sky in Australia. The fitting used a single screw and ordinary washers in lieu of the two screws and large flat washers used by the OEM. Having been fitted at Autogyro Australia, he assumed that it was approved for use.

During flight, the stone guard detached and travelled into the propeller causing two blade tips to fail and damage the remaining blade. Part of a propeller then travelled up into the rotor disc damaging one rotor blade. A successful idle power landing ensued.

The damaged stone guard was recovered and when the owner attempted to refit it, he noticed that the single retaining nut (rivnut or similar) appeared to be stripped, as he was unable to tighten the screw. He had not removed the stone guard since it was fitted.

Alert

The owners, operators and pilots of Autogyro gyroplanes that utilise this type of stone guard are strongly advised to discard any stone guards that use only one mounting screw and replace them with a genuine Autogyro factory product that is attached using two screws and large flat washers. Alternatively, owners should contact Liberty Sky regarding the required modifications to the method of attachment.

Jeff Blunt
ASRA Operations Manager



Autogyro



Liberty Sky