

TAG AVIATION PTY LTD



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30th December 2020

SAFETY ALERT: SA No. 2020.03

Subject: TAG Aviation airframe weld failure.



The owner of a Titanium Explorer gyroplane reported finding a cracked weld in the mast of his gyro during a routine pre-flight inspection. An investigation has been carried out by TAG Aviation to determine the cause of this crack. It appears the weld was under stress.

For quality control purposes, TAG had identified 3 masts during production that required an increase to the weld thickness of the rear butt joints as pictured. The re-welded masts were consequently required to be heat treated again prior to delivery.

Internal investigation confirmed that the 3 re-welded masts (includes the mast pictured), were not subject to the second heat treatment.

TAG will remove the masts from the 3 affected gyroplanes and have them repaired and heat treated before returning them to service. The airframe serial numbers are 0060-0320, 0058-0120, 0059-0120. Owners have been advised. TAG has also addressed the internal communication matter.

Owners, operators, and pilots of all types of gyroplanes that utilise welded airframes are advised to pay particular attention to the airframes in the vicinity of welded joints during pre-flight inspections and regularly during daily operations and maintenance for indications of airframe cracking.

CEO, TAG Aviation Pty Ltd
Neil Sheather

The 'Titanium Explorer' – the most exciting way to fly

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