

UNAPPROVED PARTS NOTIFICATION

Aircraft Certification Service



FAA
Aviation Safety

No.: 2012-20111221009

Date: November 19, 2012

<http://www.faa.gov/aircraft/safety/programs/sups/upn>

AFFECTED PRODUCTS:

Cessna Models R172K, 175, 175A, 175B and 175C with the STC SA383GL, Ralph Bolen Conventional Gear (tailwheel) Conversion Kit, installed which were sold and/or supplied by Robert and/or Barbara Williams.

PURPOSE:

This notification advises all aircraft owners, operators, manufacturers, maintenance organizations, and parts distributors regarding Ralph Bolen Conventional Gear (tail wheel) Conversion Kit produced without Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) production approval.

BACKGROUND:

Information received during an FAA suspected unapproved parts investigation revealed that Robert and/or Barbara Williams, Avcon Conversions, (aka, TDM, Inc.) 117 E. First Street, Udall, KS 67146, represented and sold an unapproved Ralph Bolen Conventional Gear (tail wheel) Conversion Kit for STC SA383GL, as suitable for installation on a type certificated product without FAA manufacturer approval.

Evidence indicates that five (5) of the parts in the STC SA383GL kit did not meet the FAA approved type design. These part numbers are: P/N 175-91, Bracket – Control (RH), P/N 175-30, Bracket – Tail (LH), P/N 175-39, Spring Leaf, P/N 175-37, Spring Leaf and P/N 175-30, Bracket – Tail (RH).

RECOMMENDATIONS:

Regulations require that type-certificated products conform to their type design. Aircraft owners, operators, manufacturers, maintenance organizations, and parts suppliers and distributors are encouraged to inspect their aircraft and/or parts inventories for the referenced part numbers. If STC SA383GL kits and/or parts are found in existing inventory, it is recommended that they be quarantined to prevent installation until a determination can be made regarding their origin and eligibility for installation.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

You can obtain further information concerning this investigation from the FAA Manufacturing Inspection District Office (MIDO) listed below. In addition to the above recommendations, the FAA would appreciate any information concerning any discovery of the above-referenced STC SA383GL kits and/or parts from any source, the means used to identify the source, and the actions taken to remove the STC SA383GL kits and/or parts from aircraft and/or parts inventories. This notice originated from the FAA Wichita MIDO, 2204 S. Tyler Rd., Wichita, KS 67209, Telephone (316) 946-4179, Fax (316) 946-4189.