



FAA
Aircraft Certification Service

SPECIAL AIRWORTHINESS INFORMATION BULLETIN

SAIB: CE-09-15

Date: March 2, 2009

SUBJ: Landing Gear - Nose Gear Centering Attach Bolt

This is information only. Recommendations aren't mandatory.

Introduction

This Special Airworthiness Information Bulletin (SAIB) alerts you, owners, or operators, of all serial numbers of Piper Aircraft, Inc. (Piper) Models PA-34-200, PA-34-200T and PA-34-220T airplanes of an airworthiness concern and the potential failure of the nose landing gear to extend as a result of the bolt head becoming jammed against the aft tube assembly-nose gear door actuation. This failure is due to a hex-head bolt on the nose gear centering spring rod-end to the nose gear strut, coming in contact with the nose gear door actuation aft tube assembly. This action impedes/prevents the extension of the nose gear assembly.

At this time, this airworthiness concern is not an unsafe condition that would warrant AD action under Title 14 of the Code of Federal Aviation Regulations (14CFR) part 39.

Background

This SAIB is a result of an incident on a Piper Model PA-34-200 airplane that occurred during an approach to land in which the nose gear failed to extend. Post incident investigation revealed that the hex-head bolt on nose gear centering spring had come in contact with nose gear door actuation tube assembly. This action prevented the nose gear assembly from exiting the wheel well area in normal operations and during emergency procedures.

Piper had a similar problem several years ago which resulted in a publication of Service Bulletin (SB) No. 893 dated October 11, 1988. This SB recommended an inspection of the nose gear assembly to include replacement of the hex-head bolt with a clevis bolt and washers to prevent the nose gear failure. The Piper Model PA-34-220T airplane was certified after SB 893 was published; however, it has the same nose gear assembly. All S/N PA-34-220T aircraft should have the clevis head bolt installed at the factory but they should also be included.

Recommendations

The purpose of this SAIB is to provide information to reduce the possibility of failure to the nose gear. We recommend that you incorporate Piper Service Bulletin No. 893, dated October 11, 1988, which specifies inspecting the nose gear center spring assembly for proper bolt (**replace the hex-head bolt with a clevis bolt**) along with washer installations and proper alignment to centering bracket.

For Further Information Contact

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