



**FAA**  
**Aviation Safety**

## **SPECIAL AIRWORTHINESS INFORMATION BULLETIN**

**SAIB:** CE-16-10

**Date:** December 1, 2015

**SUBJ:** Stabilizers, Rudder Structure

*This is information only. Recommendations aren't mandatory.*

### **Introduction**

This Special Airworthiness Information Bulletin (SAIB) informs registered owners/operators of Air Tractor, Inc. Models **AT-402/402A/402B, AT-502/502A/502B, AT-602, and AT-802/802A** airplanes, all serial numbers (under Type Certificate Data Sheets A17SW and A19SW) of an airworthiness concern. Specifically, this SAIB provides inspection procedures and on-condition maintenance actions for the rudder upper hinge for the affected airplanes.

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

### **Background**

Air Tractor, Inc. recently issued Snow Engineering Co. Service Letter (SL) #331 for all Models AT-402/402A/402B, AT-502/502A/502B, AT-602, and AT-802/802A airplanes. The SL was issued after an operator reported finding sheared rivets in the rudder upper hinge support bracket on one airplane. The SL provides owners and operators instructions for inspecting the rudder upper hinge and surrounding structure for hinge movement relative to the rudder, and for cracks in the skins, spars, hinge brackets, or doublers. An initial inspection is specified within 100 flight hours with repeat inspections 300 hours/annually thereafter, and repair or replacement of damaged parts when found. SL #331 also requests you report your inspection results to the Air Tractor Service Department using the contact information provided.

### **Recommendations**

The FAA recommends inspecting, and repairing or replacing when required, the rudder upper hinge and surrounding structure in Air Tractor, Inc. AT-402/402A/402B, AT-502/502A/502B, AT-602, and AT-802/802A airplanes using the procedures in SL #331, and to report your inspection findings to the Air Tractor Service Department.

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**For Further Information Contact**

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**For Related Service Information or to Report Inspection Findings Contact**

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