

AIRWORTHINESS DIRECTIVE

93-035 Worthington

Date of issue:

January 21, 1993

Affected propane fuel cylinders:

All hot air balloons with propane fuel cylinders of aluminium, type "Worthington"

Subjekt / Reason:

Several cases in Germany and in Switzerland have occurred, in which the bleed valve dip tubes of propane fuel cylinders, type "Worthington", equipped with bleed valves with fixed dip tubes, have been broken or dropped out of the valve body.

Actions:

1) The gas cylinders are to be filled until gas is escaping from the bleed valve and the total mass is to be determined by means of scales.

2) If for a gas cylinder the sum of tare plus net weight (filling weight) exceeds the value marked on the cylinder neck by more than 2 kg, the bleed valve is to be exchanged.

The cylinder may no longer be put into service until the bleed valve has been exchanged.

3) The proper condition of the bleed valves with fixed dip tube is to be determined by a visual control and by checking the dip tube for tight fit by a longitudinal pull on the tube.

Defective bleed valves are to be exchanged for new ones or loose dip tubes are to be soldered by using silver filler.

Dip tubes which are not soldered in should for reasons of safety be exchanged or soldered. As long as the dip tubes have not been soldered in, the actions under no. 3 must be repeated during each annual inspection.

Compliance:

Actions nos 2 and 3: prior to the next utilisation of the propane gas cylinder.

Action no. 3: during the next annual inspection at the latest.

Accomplishment and log book entry:

Action 1) may be accomplished by the holder, an approved service station or an authorized person and entered in the log.

Action 2) und 3) only to be accomplished by an approved service station and to be checked and entered in the log by a licensed inspector.