



FAA
Aviation Safety

SPECIAL AIRWORTHINESS INFORMATION BULLETIN

SAIB: 2023-02

Date: March 3, 2023

SUBJ: Landing Gear System

This is information only. Recommendations aren't mandatory.

Introduction

This Special Airworthiness Information Bulletin (SAIB) informs owners, operators, and maintenance technicians of an airworthiness concern for **Mooney International Corporation (Mooney) Model M20, M20A, M20B, M20C, M20D, M20E, M20F, M20G, M20J, M20K, M20L, M20M, M20R, M20S, M20TN, M20U, and M20V 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

After receiving reports of landing gear failures on Mooney M20 series airplanes related to improper maintenance, age, operational deterioration, and/or failure to perform established inspection and rigging requirements and procedures in applicable maintenance instructions, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) issued SAIB CE-14-12, dated March 14, 2014, recommending that owners and operators of Mooney M20, M20A, M20B, M20C, M20D, M20E, M20F, M20G, M20J, M20K, M20L, M20M, M20R, M20S, and M20TN airplanes comply with Mooney Service Instruction M20-122, dated December 12, 2013 (SI M20-122), by following the applicable Mooney 100-Hour Inspection Guide and Service and Maintenance Manual instructions at each annual (100-hour) inspection.

Since the FAA issued SAIB CE-14-12 and Mooney issued SI M20-122, there have been additional incidents involving landing gear failures and gear-up landings in both manual and electric landing gear-equipped airplanes. In response to these additional incidents, Mooney released Service Bulletin M20-344, dated November 28, 2022 (SB M20-344), which contains information on how to operate and maintain manual and electric landing gear systems.

Recommendations

The FAA recommends that all Mooney M20 series airplane owners and operators:

- Continue to comply with SI M20-122 by following the applicable Mooney 100-Hour Inspection Guide and Service and Maintenance Manual instructions at each annual (100-hour) inspection.
- Review Mooney Service Bulletin M20-344 for information on proper maintenance and operation of the manual and electric landing gear systems.

Additionally, for Mooney M20 series airplane owners and operators with a Johnson Bar landing gear system installed, the FAA recommends that you:

- Ensure that nose gear and main landing gear tensions are to specifications.
- Ensure the gear retraction components are regularly and properly lubricated.
- Ensure landing gear is rigged correctly during routine maintenance and airplane repainting.

Finally, following any gear-up landing event, the FAA recommends reporting the following information to the FAA contacts listed below:

- Airplane make/model/registration number.
- Type of landing gear system.
- Date of last maintenance performed on landing gear system.

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For Related Service Information Contact

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