



EASA Safety Information Bulletin

SIB No.: 2008-43
Issued: 04 June 2008

Subject: Sikorsky S-92 – Over Pressurisation of Fuel Cells during Pressure Refuelling, causing damage to Sponsons.

Ref. Publication: Sikorsky Safety Advisory SSA-S92-08-004 dated 14 April 2008.

Description: The Sikorsky Aircraft Corporation, Type Certificate (TC) holder of the S-92 helicopter type design, has published the referenced advisory document (attached as pages 2 and 3 of this bulletin) to warn operators of the affected helicopters that there have been instances of damage to sponsons caused by over pressurisation of fuel cells during pressure refuelling. Pending the investigation and the development of a modification to improve the fuel system vents that would eliminate the tendency for over pressurisation, Sikorsky recommends that operators use gravity refuelling procedures whenever possible. A number of safety precautions are provided when gravity refuelling is not possible.

After reviewing the available information, EASA concurs with the advisory and fully supports the Sikorsky recommendations contained therein. This SIB is published to ensure that all owners and operators of S-92 helicopters, registered in European Union Member States or associated countries, are aware of these recommendations.

Applicability: Sikorsky Model S-92 helicopters, all serial numbers.

Contact: For further information contact the Airworthiness Directives, Safety Management & Research Section, Certification Directorate, EASA.
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Sikorsky Safety Advisory

Document Number: SSA-S92-08-004
Revision (Date): Original
Date: April 14, 2008
System: Fuel
Affected Aircraft: S-92 Series Models

Subject: Pressure Refueling

1. Introduction

There have been instances of damage to sponsons caused by over pressurization of fuel cells during pressure refueling. Investigation thus far has shown that the vent valve(s) is sensitive to transient airflow, motion or vibration causing it to close prematurely. Based on these findings, the following operational warning is being provided to all operators of S-92 aircraft:

WARNING

Monitor fuel status during pressure refueling to avoid damaging the sponson and injuring personnel should an over pressurization occur.

2. Corrective Action

Sikorsky recommends all operators use gravity refueling whenever possible. When gravity refueling is not possible or practical, the following guidance is provided:

- 1) Minimize pressure fueling with rotors turning.
- 2) Minimize pressure fueling in high wind conditions.
- 3) Do not pressure fuel while loading/unloading passengers or equipment.
- 4) Monitor fuel quantity indication in the cockpit and cease fueling operations immediately if fuel indication stops increasing.
- 5) Continuous communication is essential between personnel in cockpit and fueling personnel.

- 6) Conduct both primary and secondary high level pre-checks before every fueling operation to verify operation, in accordance with Maintenance Manual SA S92A-AMM-000, Section 28-10-00, Paragraph A (7) (c) through A (7) (i).
- 7) Minimize filling either side above 2300 lbs. while pressure refueling.

Sikorsky is in the process of improving the fuel system vents to eliminate the tendency for over pressurization and to reduce the reliance on these recommendations in the future.

3. Parts Required

None at this time.

4. Contact Information

For additional information or questions, contact your Sikorsky Commercial Product Support Manager, or call the Customer Service Engineering Desk at 1-800 Winged-S or E-mail: sikorskywcs@sikorsky.com, or Phone: (203)-416-4299.