

Airworthiness Directive of The Netherlands

Bijzondere Luchtwaardigheids Aanwijzing - BLA

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Caution

In accordance with the Aviation Act 2001 (Wet Luchtvaart), Article 3.22, the following Airworthiness Directive (BLA) is issued by the Minister of Transport, Public Works and Water Management. Airworthiness Directives affect aviation safety. These are regulations which require immediate attention. You are cautioned that no person may operate an aircraft to which an Airworthiness Directive applies, except in accordance with the requirements thereof.

BLA nr. 2003-090/2 (A)

Date : October 8, 2004

FOKKER SERVICES B.V.
(formerly Fokker Aircraft B.V.)
F.27 Mk.050, Mk.0502 and Mk.0604

CAA-NL Type Certificate Nr.

T-050-87

THIS AIRWORTHINESS DIRECTIVE IS PUBLISHED BY THE CAA-NL :

- acting for and on behalf of the European Aviation Safety Agency (EASA), as the Primary Airworthiness Authority (ICAO Annex 8 Authority of the State of Design) for the affected product(s); and
- has been approved under EASA reference N° 2004-10037 dated 30 September 2004

FUEL - VENTILATION FLOAT VALVE & SNIFFLE VALVE - REPLACEMENT

Description :

Fokker 50 (F.27 Mk.050, Mk.0502) operators have reported four separate cases of an imploded Fuel Collector Tank. Investigation has learned that this was caused by insufficient ventilation of the fuel tanks during operation. Fuel tank ventilation is performed by the Ventilation Float Valve and the Sniffle Valve. In the reported cases, damage was limited to the Fuel Collector Tank. In theory, a main (wing) fuel tank implosion cannot be excluded, although this has never been experienced. Nor were there any reports of damage to the wing (tank) structure following the implosion of a Fuel Collector Tank. Elimination of any differential pressure - or at least of the build-up thereof - following a Fuel Collector Tank implosion is assumed to be part of the chain of events which prevent a main (wing) fuel tank implosion, based on presently known cases. The cause of insufficient (or failed) ventilation of the fuel tanks is thought to be the sticking of both Sniffle Valve and Ventilation Float Valve, due to freezing of condensed water. Recently, it has been found that another Part Number (P/N) Ventilation Float Valve is similarly affected. This condition, if not corrected, could result in further Fuel Collector Tank implosion events. Since an unsafe condition has been identified that may develop on aircraft of this type design, this Airworthiness Directive (BLA) requires the replacement of the affected valves with improved units.

Applicability : Fokker Aircraft B.V. Model F.27 Mk.050, Mk.0502 and Mk.0604 aircraft, serial numbers 20103 thru 20204 and 20206 thru 20212.

Effective date : November 1, 2004

Compliance : Required as indicated, unless accomplished previously.

(a) Within the next 24 calendar months after September 1, 2003 (the effective date of the original issue of this directive), replace all Ventilation Float Valves P/N 29000 with improved design units having P/N 29000-3 in accordance with Part 2 Accomplishment Instructions of Fokker Services Service Bulletin (SB) F50-28-020 dated April 15, 2003 or a later CAA-NL approved revision;

(b) Within the next 10 calendar months after the effective date of this directive, replace all Ventilation Float Valves P/N 29000-1 with improved design units having P/N 29000-3 in accordance with Part 2 Accomplishment Instructions of Fokker Services SB F50-28-022 dated August 23, 2004 or a later CAA-NL approved revision;

(c) Within the next 24 calendar months after September 1, 2003 (the effective date of the original issue of this directive), replace all Sniffle Valves P/N 2770002-101 with improved design units having P/N 2770002-103 in accordance with Part 2 Accomplishment Instructions of Fokker Services SB F50-28-021 dated April 15, 2003 or a later CAA-NL approved revision;

(d) As of the effective date of this directive, no spare Ventilation Float Valves P/N 29000 or P/N 29000-1 or Sniffle Valves P/N 2770002-101 may be installed as replacement parts.

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Remarks :

- Operators of the affected aircraft may obtain copies of the referenced service information upon request directly from **Fokker Services B.V., Technical Services Dept., P.O.Box 231, 2150 AE Nieuw-Vennep, The Netherlands; telephone (31) 252-627-350; facsimile (31) 252-627-211; e-mail technicalservices.fokkerservices@stork.com.**
- Compliance with this directive must be recorded in the proper Aircraft Log Book(s).
- This revision supersedes and cancels Airworthiness Directive (BLA) 2003-090 dated July 31, 2003.

Address inquiries concerning this AD to :

Aircraft Division, Section C&D; telephone +31-23-566-3155; facsimile +31-23-566-3006; e-mail Info.Register@ivw.nl.