



SERVICE LETTER

No. 853

Piper Aircraft Corporation

Lock Haven, Pennsylvania, U.S.A.

June 8, 1979

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Subject:

Inspection for Cracked Flap Spars at
Hinge Areas

Models Affected:

PA-23 Apache
PA-23-235 Apache
PA-23-250 Aztec
PA-23-250 (Six Place) Aztec

Serial Numbers Affected:

23-1 through 23-2046
27-505 through 27-622
27-1 through 27-504
27-2000 through 27-7405300

Compliance Time:

Recommended on aircraft with 2000 hours or more in service at the next regularly scheduled inspection (100 hour, annual or programmed inspection event), not to exceed the next one hundred (100) hours of operation, and every one hundred (100) hours thereafter or until replacement flaps (See Material Required, below) are installed.

Purpose:

Field reports have been received of cracks forming in the flap spar assembly and radiating from the hinge attachment areas. The affected aircraft had relatively high operating times.

This service release recommends a repetitive flap spar inspection program to allow early detection of possible cracking at hinge attachment points, and also announces the availability of a reinforced flap assembly to provide maximum flap service life and to relieve the necessity of the repetitive flap spar inspection.

Instructions:

1. Extend the flaps to the full down position.
2. Thoroughly clean the hinge plates and the accessible spar area around the hinge plates.
3. Using a light and 5x magnifier, thoroughly inspect the visible spar surface adjacent to the hinge plate for cracks. Examine carefully to distinguish cracked paint from structural cracks.
4. If structural cracks are found in the spar, repair in accordance with acceptable methods of the AC 43:13-1A or replace flap with new flap (See Material Required, below.)

(over)

Instructions: (continued)

5. Make appropriate logbook entry. Until such time as flap is replaced per Instruction 4 above, it is recommended that the above inspection be repeated at each one hundred (100) hours of operation.

Material Required:

If required by inspection or to relieve the one hundred (100) hour repetitive inspection recommendation:

Serial Numbers 23-1 through 23-2406 and 27-1 through 27-2504

One (1) each per aircraft, Flap Assy-Right (Piper Part No. 17104-71) at a suggested list price of \$605.00E each and/or Flap Assy.-Left (Piper Part No. 17104-72) at a suggested list price of \$452.00E each.

Serial Numbers 27-2505 through 27-3409 and 27-3051 through 27-3153

One (1) each per aircraft, Flap Assy-Right (Piper Part No. 17104-73) at a suggested list price of \$608.00E each and/or Flap Assy.-Left (Piper Part No. 17104-74) at a suggested list Price of \$424.00E each.

Serial Numbers 27-3050, 27-3154 through 27-4916 and 27-7304917 through 27-7405300

One (1) each per aircraft, Flap Assy-Right (Piper Part No. 17104-69) at a suggested list price of \$599.00E each and/or Flap Assy.-Left (Piper Part No. 17104-68) at a suggested list price of \$559.00E each.

All Affected Aircraft

Each Flap Assy. installed requires the installation of one (1) per Flap, Outboard Flap Hinge Attachment Hardware Kit (Piper Part No. 760 869) at a suggested list price of \$5.50A each.

Availability of Parts:

Your Piper Field Service Facility.

Effectivity Date:

This Service Release is effective upon receipt.

Summary:

Please make arrangements to comply with the provisions of this Service Release in accordance with Compliance Time, above.