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Publication date: 16th May 2019

SERVICE BULLETIN

IMPORTANCE	HIGH
AREA AFFECTED	FUEL TANK
SA/B NUMBER	CH 010-05-2019
EFFECTIVE DATE	16 MAY 2019

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1. Applicability:

All Cheetah/Cheetah-XLS/BushCat aircraft.

2. Subject:

Fuel tank and fuel filter inspection to ascertain if the cork gaskets on the fuel tank are breaking up and depositing cork debris in the aircraft fuel.

3. Purpose:

This mandatory service bulletin ensures that all aircraft fuel tanks and fuel filters are inspected for cork deposits to ascertain if the cork gaskets are eroding and leaving deposits in the fuel, and provides a solution in the event that they are.

4. Background:

During the course of a recent preflight inspection, cork deposits were found in the fuel tank and fuel filters of the aircraft in question.

On further investigation it was found that the action of punching the centre holes into the cork gaskets fitted at the top of the tank had distorted the cork such that the resulting hole was smaller than expected. As a result, small sections from the inner diameter of the cork gaskets overhung the holes into the fuel tank and began separating from the rest of the gasket during the course of normal use and finding their way into the fuel itself.

Due to concerns that this was affecting or could in the future affect other aircraft, it was deemed necessary to inspect all aircraft on an ongoing basis and take corrective action as required.

5. Discussion:

In order to ensure that the fuel reaching the engine is free of cork deposits, ongoing preflight inspections of the fuel tank and fuel filters for cork deposits need to be conducted.

In some aircraft it is expected that the cork gaskets currently installed on the top of the fuel tank as a part of the fuel pipe assembly will have holes smaller than that required to fit the fuel tank hole, and the overhang will begin to erode into the fuel tank itself.

In the event of cork deposits being found in the fuel, the fuel needs to be completely drained from the tank and the tank cleaned. Since to drain the fuel from the fuel tank, the fuel drains need to be completely removed and the cork gaskets on them are exposed, Nitrile replacements for the bottom (smaller) cork gaskets are supplied as well. This is in line with the application of Nitrile gaskets to all fuel tanks going into new aircraft going forward.

6. Required action:

1. All aircraft must be inspected visually for cork deposits in the fuel tank or fuel filters before the next flight by the owner / operator. If no deposits are found, ongoing monitoring in preflight inspections must be conducted.
2. If deposits are found, upgrade kit **BCUG-068-001** must be carried out before the next flight.

7. Approved personnel:

This work prescribed in this service bulletin and the upgrade kit which it references may only be carried out, and signed off by persons with the following qualifications:

- In South Africa: RAASA Approved Person (AP), SACAA Aircraft Maintenance Engineer (AME) or higher, or person approved by the manufacturer.
- In USA: FAA Light sport repairman (LSRM) or higher, or person approved by the manufacturer.

In the case of owner/kit built aircraft the kit builder is also approved to conduct the installation, if his/her country of registration allows.

8. Effective date:

This notice takes effect as of the 16th May 2019.

9. Contact:

Questions and/or comments regarding this safety alert should be directed to Rainbow SkyReach (Pty) Ltd on:

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