

American Champion Aircraft Corp.  
Rochester, WI 53167

Service Letter: 421

Date: March 28, 2002

Title: Seat Beat Retrofit on Early Model Aircraft

Applicable Models: 7AC, 7BCM, 7CCM, 7DC, and 7EC

Description: It has been found that the factory original seat belt restraint system is inadequate. Without the third attach point of a shoulder strap, the crash loads on just a lap belt are too great. This letter explores an option to bring the restraining system up to more current standards.

Installation: Only the installation of a 4-point or 5-point harness is described herein. Single shoulder straps installed in accordance with older approved design data will also aid to satisfy the recommendation. The components called out are limited in availability. Therefore they were omitted from this letter.

The attach point lug installation is best done while the airplane is uncovered and the headliner removed because it requires welding to the fuselage frame. Following Drawing 3-1711, the applicable attach lugs must be welded to the fuselage frame per either American Champion Specification CW-1S or the techniques described in the latest version of AC 43.13. Finish with some corrosion protection; follow either American Champion Specification CFP-1 or techniques in the latest version of AC 43.13.

Install the seat belts per 3-1660. Note that alternate seat belts are likely to be acceptable but are not specifically approved. Such a deviation will require separate FAA approval.

Approval: The attach lug installation is FAA approved under American Champion Drawing 3-1711, and should be called out in the logbook entry. The Seat Belt installation 3-1660 does not need to be referenced because they are called out on 3-1711. Both installation prints are available for sale and should be kept with airplane records.

Alternate Method: A less invasive method can be had by utilizing STC SA312CH. At the issue of this revision, it is currently held by Hooker Custom Harness in Freeport, Illinois. Wherein, the seatbelt is tied onto the fuselage frame rather than attached to a welded lug.