

Service Letter: 431

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Date: July 20, 2009

Title: Inspection Folding Rear Seat Hinge

Models: All 7ECA, 7GCAA, 7GCBC, 7KCAB, 8KCAB, and 8GCBC with Folding Rear Seats manufactured before 1989

Procedure: Older seats require inspection due to possible failure in critical areas (see figure 1). Affected seats may be identified by AN3 hinge bolts and 0.050 inch lug thickness.

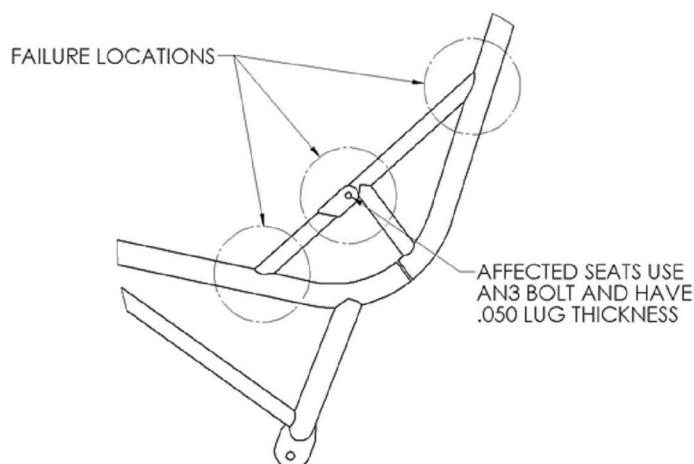


Figure 1 Critical Seat Hinge Areas

To prevent possible seat hinge area failure, the following actions are recommended:

(1) Within the next 25 flight hours, remove rear seat hinge bolts and inspect rear seat hinge areas as noted in Figure 1:

- Visually inspect the areas with 3x or greater magnification. Optionally, a dye penetrant inspection of the highlighted area may be performed in addition to the visual inspection.
- Inspect for elongation of the hinge bolt hole. Elongation more than 0.015 inches is considered excessive.

(2) Repeat item (1) every 100 hours of flight or during annual inspection, whichever frequency is higher.

Cracking or excessive elongation is cause for rejection and requires rear seat frame replacement. The assembly may be replaced with a factory remanufactured seat frame, a new 7-1500 (standard) seat frame, or a new 7-1501 (wide) seat frame. After seat installation, verify the control stick retains freedom of movement. Replacement with a new or remanufactured assembly is considered a terminating action to this inspection and precludes further inspection requirements beyond those listed in the Service Instructions.