



British Gliding Association

Kimberly House
Vaughan Way
Leicester LE1 4SE

Telephone 0116 253 1051

Facsimile 0116 251 5939

e-mail bga@gliding.co.uk

web www.gliding.co.uk

BGA Puchacz Owners

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To whom it may concern,

EASA AD 2006-0243-E, PUCHACZ RUDDER ATTACHMENT

We have an instance where the rudder detached from the aircraft during a landing run after embodiment of EASA AD 2006-0243-E and SB BE-058/SXD-50-3/2006 "PUCHACZ". Where a second cotter pin hole was drilled to accommodate the castellated nut and subsequently failed at the dual cotter pin hole location.

The English translation in the SB is not perfectly clear and may have caused some confusion.

Section 4.2 task 3, states "Clean the opening for a cotter pin, one located in the bottom, threaded portion of the rudder pin"

This is implying that a cotter pin (or split pin) hole is already drilled in the threaded portion of the location hinge pin and should be cleaned out, as it may be full of dirt, prior to use.

It is not giving instruction to drill a hole.

The reason for the failure has not been established yet, however, pending the result and in the interests of flight safety the following action is required for BGA gliders;

Any Puchacz Rudder location hinge pins that are damaged in any way, were drilled to satisfy AD 2006-0243-E or are double drilled must immediately be withdrawn from service, also if it is suspected that the old cotter pin was sheared off by undoing the nut rather than removing the pin, the hinge pin must also be immediately removed from service. The withdrawn hinge pins must be replaced with new genuine parts.

If any further action is required it will be communicated to BGA Puchacz owners.

Yours sincerely

Jim Hammerton

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J Hammerton'.

Chief Technical Officer.

Chief Executive Pete Stratten

Patron The Duke of Edinburgh KG

Vice Presidents Christopher R Simpson MA LLM, Roger Q Barrett, Ben Watson MA FCA,
Bill Walker OBE, Air Vice Marshal Don Spottiswood CB, Dick Dixon FCII, Peter Hearne FREng FRAeS

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