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SERVICE BULLETIN #52

DATE: August 11, 1998
SUBJECT: Nicopress sleeves
APPLICABILITY: All Kitfox Aircraft
COMPLIANCE: Mandatory
FROM: SkyStar Aircraft Engineering

A variety of Kitfox aircraft kits were upgraded to stainless steel rudder cables over the years. We have discovered that in some cases the original un-plated Nicopress sleeves continued to be shipped despite the change to stainless cables. This combination of stainless cables and un-plated sleeves can lead to accelerated corrosion between the differing metals.

Determine if the rudder cables on your aircraft have the affected combination of stainless cables and un-plated sleeves. A magnet can be used to determine if your cables are galvanized steel or stainless steel; the galvanized cables are strongly magnetic, whereas the stainless cables are only slightly magnetic, if at all. The un-plated sleeves are copper-colored, while the plated sleeves are zinc-colored.

If your aircraft has the stainless cables and un-plated sleeves, before the next flight, and at intervals not greater than every six months, inspect your cables at every cable/sleeve junction for corrosion. Should any evidence of corrosion be encountered, the cables and sleeves must be replaced before the next flight. The galvanized steel cables can be used with either sleeve.

Regardless of the apparent visual condition of the cables, the affected aircraft must have the proper combination of stainless cables and plated sleeves installed within three years from the date the cables were assembled.

We would encourage owners who operate their aircraft in an environment known to enhance corrosion, such as near or on saltwater, in high humidity, or in polluted air, to shorten the inspection and replacement interval at their own discretion.

Parts orders and requests for further information can be directed to Customer Service at 208-454-2444.