

UNAPPROVED PARTS NOTIFICATION

Aircraft Certification Service



FAA
Aviation Safety

No.: 2009-20080401002

Date: January 29, 2009

<http://www.faa.gov/aircraft/safety/programs/sups/upn>

AFFECTED PRODUCTS:

Cessna Aircraft. Model 172 airplanes and possibly other models.

Note: Additional Cessna aircraft models may be affected; however, specific information pertaining to these products is unknown at this time.

PURPOSE:

This notification advises all aircraft owners, operators, maintenance organizations, and parts distributors, of the listed models of aircraft, and possibly other models, that unapproved parts were sold and may have been installed on these aircraft.

BACKGROUND:

Information received during a Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) suspected unapproved parts investigation (SUP) revealed that on August 8, 2007, XP Modifications, Inc., located at 3840 Airport Way, East Wenatchee, WA, 98802, sold without benefit of FAA Parts Manufacturer Approval (PMA) an engine mount for installation on a Cessna 172 airplane.

Evidence indicates that XP Modifications, Inc. sold an engine mount to the owner of Cessna 172 (N-2857U). FAA records indicate that XP Modifications Inc. is not approved to manufacture for sale engine mounts at the East Wenatchee, WA location.

The Seattle Manufacturing District Office (MIDO) was notified by an anonymous informant who had knowledge of an engine mount from XP Modifications, Inc. that was in the process of being installed on a Cessna 172 at Slybob Airport, CA. With the assistance of the Riverside, California Flight Standards District Office (FSDO), an Aviation Safety Inspector (ASI) was dispatched to the Slybob Airport. The ASI located the subject airplane at Far West Aviation, Hangar 23 4130 Mennes Ave., Riverside, CA. The installation of an engine mount was in progress on the subject airplane. He noticed installation drawings from XP Modifications, Inc. Also, the FSDO Inspector was able to acquire a copy of an Invoice that was supplied with the engine mount from XP Modifications, Inc. The Inspector informed the owner of the airplane that this engine mount was a SUP. The Inspector informed the owner of the airplane to remove the engine mount. He also informed the owner not to dispose of the mount. The FSDO Inspector tagged the mount with information "Not to Dispose". Note: No part or serial number identification was found on the engine mount.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

Title 14 CFR § 21.303 (a) states in part, no person may produce a replacement or modification part for sale for installation on type certificated product unless it is produced pursuant to a parts Manufacturer Approval (PMA). Further, Title 14 CFR § 21.303 (k), states that the holder of a PMA shall determine that each completed part conforms to the design data and is safe for installation on type certificated products. Aircraft owners, operators, maintenance organizations, and parts distributors should inspect their aircraft, aircraft records, and/or parts inventories for unapproved engine mounts produced and sold from XP Modifications, Inc. If unapproved engine mounts are installed on aircraft, appropriate action should be taken to remove them from service. If an unapproved engine mount is found in existing inventory, it is recommended that the mounts be quarantined to prevent installation.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

You can obtain further information concerning this investigation and guidance regarding the above-referenced engine mount SUP from the FAA Manufacturing Inspection District Office listed below. In addition to compliance with the above recommendations, we would appreciate any information concerning the discovery of XP Modifications Inc. engine mounts from any source, the means used to identify the source, and the action taken to remove the engine mounts from service.

This notice originated from the FAA Seattle MIDO, 2500 East Valley Road, Suite C-2, Renton, WA 98305, telephone (425) 227-2178, fax (425) 227-1159.