



# Federal Aviation Administration

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## Memorandum

Date: November 12, 2009  
To: All Manufacturing Inspection Offices, District/Satellite Offices, and Certificate Management Offices/Units  
All Flight Standards Divisions  
All Flight Standards District Offices  
Note: Please disseminate to appropriate designees  
From: *Frank P. Paskiewicz*  
Frank P. Paskiewicz, Manager, Production and Airworthiness Division, AIR-200  
Prepared by: AIR-230  
Subject: Zodiac CH601XL/CH650 Airworthiness Actions

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### Purpose

To suspend the issuance of new airworthiness certificates to any and all variants of Zodiac CH601XL and CH650 airplanes, all serial numbers, including special light-sport category aircraft (S-LSA), experimental light-sport aircraft (E-LSA), and experimental amateur-built aircraft.

### Background

Since April 2009, the FAA has been conducting a special review of the Zodiac CH601XL and the nearly identical CH650 to evaluate design and operational details of these aircraft. This review revealed several areas of concern regarding the CH601XL/CH650 design that impacts the overall safety of the design including wing structure, structural stability, flutter, airspeed calibration and stick force characteristics.

On November 7, 2009, in order to prevent potential catastrophic structural failure, the FAA issued SAIB CE-10-08 *Wings: Zodiac CH601XL and CH650 Wing Structural Modifications*. The SAIB can be found at

[http://rgl.faa.gov/Regulatory\\_and\\_Guidance\\_Library/rgSAIB.nsf/\(LookupSAIBs\)/CE-10-08?OpenDocument](http://rgl.faa.gov/Regulatory_and_Guidance_Library/rgSAIB.nsf/(LookupSAIBs)/CE-10-08?OpenDocument).

In the SAIB, the FAA strongly recommends that all owners and operators of Zodiac CH601XL/CH650 comply with actions outlined in an Aircraft Manufacturing & Design, LLC (AMD) Safety Directive / Safety Alert before further flight. This AMD Safety Directive/Alert was also issued on November 7, 2009 and can be found at

[http://www.newplane.com/amd\\_downloads/SAFETY%20ALERT%20November%207%202009.pdf](http://www.newplane.com/amd_downloads/SAFETY%20ALERT%20November%207%202009.pdf)

**Action**

To preclude potential catastrophic in-flight structural failure, effectively immediately, no new airworthiness certificates will be issued to any and all variants of Zodiac CH601XL and CH650 airplanes, all serial numbers, including special light-sport category aircraft (S-LSA), experimental light-sport aircraft (E-LSA), and experimental amateur-built aircraft until such time that the applicant submits adequate evidence that the applicant's aircraft has been modified in a manner consistent with the above-mentioned documents.

**For Further Information Contact**

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