



SERVICE BULLETIN

No. 405

Piper Aircraft Corporation

Lock Haven, Pennsylvania, U.S.A.

"FAA DOA EA-1 Approved"

October 31, 1973

Subject:

Fuel Crossfeed Control Modification

Models Affected:

PA-31-350 Navajo Chieftain

Serial Numbers Affected:

31-5001 to 31-7405152 incl.

Compliance Time:

Within the next fifty hours of operation.

Purpose:

There has been a recent incident in which transfer of fuel from one fuel cell to a fuel cell in the opposite wing -- a practice that is not normal and not necessary -- resulted in structural damage to the wing fuel cell cavity area. In the interest of precluding the possibility of similar occurrences, Piper Customer Services dispatched a telegram message to all Piper Distributors, followed by a letter (dated September 25, 1973) to all PA-31-350 Chieftain owners addressing the subject of proper fuel management and inspection of fuel crossfeed system. The objective of these communications was to stress proper fuel management procedures as outlined in the Chieftain's Pilot Operating Manual and to specify a brief, simple operational inspection of the crossfeed system to insure proper function.

Further investigation revealed the possibility that the crossfeed handle, through misuse, could override the stops in the crossfeed control. This service release provides material and instructions to modify the crossfeed control to insure proper positioning of the crossfeed handle. Fuel Crossfeed Control Modification Kit, Piper Part No. 760 814 (reference Material Required, below) is designed to preclude the possibility of the fuel crossfeed handle overriding the stops.

Instructions:

1. Installation Instructions: Contained in Fuel Crossfeed Control Modification Kit, Piper Part No. 760 814.
2. Subsequent to installation of the Fuel Crossfeed Installation Kit, perform the following crossfeed check:
 - a. Left fuel selector off -- right selector to tank containing fuel.
 - b. Crossfeed selector off.

(over)

Instructions: (continued)

2. c. Engines off -- master switch and right electric fuel pump on.
- d. Observe fuel pressure indication on right side -- left side should be zero.
- e. If fuel pressure indications are observed on left side of gauge, the fuel crossfeed valve must be checked for either leakage and/or mis-rigging, and either condition must be corrected before further flight. See Service Manual for rigging instructions.
- f. Return all fuel selector controls to normal operating position.

Material Required:

One (1) each per aircraft Fuel Crossfeed Control Modification Kit, Piper Part No. 760 814.

Availability of Parts:

Your Piper Dealer.

Effectivity Date:

This Service Bulletin is effective November 5, 1973.

Summary:

Please contact your Piper Dealer to make arrangements for compliance with this service release in accordance with Compliance Time, above. Material associated with the modification described above is available free of charge through your Piper Dealer, providing the installation is accomplished by a Piper Dealer. Labor time required for this modification is minimal.

A Service Publication Compliance form is enclosed with each copy of this service release mailed to owners of record; subsequent to compliance, owners/operators are to fill out the enclosed form per instructions on the reverse side of the form (bottom copy) and leave the form with the Piper Dealer performing the modification.

BULLETIN SUPPLEMENT - PROCEDURAL OPERATING INFORMATION

Material Allowance:

Not applicable; material is being provided to affected Piper Distributors on an automatic factory distribution, no-charge basis. For additional requirements, please order in the normal manner.

Labor Allowance:

Not applicable.

Disposition of Parts in Stock:

Not applicable.

Disposition of Replaced Parts:

Not applicable.