



U.S. Department  
of Transportation  
**Federal Aviation  
Administration**

# SAFO

Safety Alert for Operators

SAFO 12001  
DATE: 2/6/12

Flight Standards Service  
Washington, DC

**[http://www.faa.gov/other\\_visit/aviation\\_industry/airline\\_operators/airline\\_safety/safo](http://www.faa.gov/other_visit/aviation_industry/airline_operators/airline_safety/safo)**

*A SAFO contains important safety information and may include recommended action. SAFO content should be especially valuable to air carriers in meeting their statutory duty to provide service with the highest possible degree of safety in the public interest. Besides the specific action recommended in a SAFO, an alternative action may be as effective in addressing the safety issue named in the SAFO.*

**Subject:** Cessna CE-560XL Tailcone Stinger Drains

**Purpose:** This SAFO ensures that operators of Cessna CE-560XL aircraft are aware of the potential for water accumulation in the tailcone stinger when parked or during ground operations in the rain. This water may freeze in flight and could result in binding of the rudder control cable.

**Background:** The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) has received reports of rudder binding due to ice accumulation on the rudder pulleys and cables in the CE-560XL tailcone stinger. In each report, the airplane departed in rain and then climbed to an altitude with temperatures at or below freezing.

**Discussion:** Cessna issued revised Alert Service Letter ASL560XL-53-08 on January 27, 2011. This letter provides maintenance instructions on sealing an existing drain hole in the tailcone stinger and adding a drain hole in the aft canted bulkhead. The letter is available from the Cessna Aircraft Company support web site or by contacting Cessna Team Excel at (316) 517-1400.

**Recommended Action:** Operators should verify compliance with Cessna Alert Service Letter ASL560XL-53-08 and remind flight crewmembers to check the tailcone drains during preflight. During preflight, pilots should verify that the tailcone drains are clear and draining properly. If the drains are not draining properly, pilots should contact maintenance personnel for corrective action.

**Contact:** Questions or comments regarding this SAFO should be directed to the General Aviation and Commercial Division, AFS-800, by phone at 202-385-9600.