



U.S. Department
of Transportation
Federal Aviation
Administration

SAFO

Safety Alert for Operators

SAFO 17005
DATE: 4/10/17

Flight Standards Service
Washington, DC

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: Improper Maintenance Performed on Aircraft Accessories/Articles by Thunder Airmotive, Inc. (Thunder)

Purpose: This SAFO alerts owners, operators, air agencies, and maintenance technicians of improper maintenance performed on aircraft accessories/articles by Thunder Airmotive, Inc. (Thunder), which previously held Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Air Agency Certificate No. ZK3R027M.

Background: On July 5th, 2013 the FAA revoked Thunder's air agency certificate, No. ZK3R027M. Further investigation conducted by the FAA revealed that Thunder continued to return accessories/articles to service using a revoked FAA certified air agency certificate after the order of revocation was issued on July 5, 2013. Recent evidence confirms Thunder is issuing FAA 8130-3 forms returning to service accessories/articles after the above date of revocation as being overhauled or repaired.

Discussion: Federal regulations define who is authorized to perform return-to-service actions on approved or acceptable parts following maintenance, preventive maintenance, rebuilding and alterations for type certificated aircraft. Accessories/articles returned to service using a revoked FAA air agency certificate are not in compliance with Title 14 of the Code of Federal Regulations (14 CFR) part 43 § 43.7, placing the flying public at risk.

Recommended Action: Owners, operators, air agencies, and maintenance technicians should inspect aircraft, aircraft records, and/or aircraft parts inventories for any accessory/article returned to service by Thunder after July 5, 2013. Accessories/articles discovered installed on an aircraft should be removed and an appropriate return-to-service inspection/action accomplished. Accessories/articles in existing aircraft stock should be quarantined to prevent installation until an acceptable return-to-service determination of the accessory/article can be made regarding its eligibility for installation.

Contact: Questions or comments regarding this SAFO should be directed to J. Sam Belknap, Van Nuys Flight Standards District Office, FAA, by telephone at (818) 904-6291, ext. 349 or by fax at (818) 786-9732.