



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

SAFO

Safety Alert for Operators

SAFO 18005
DATE: 4/23/18

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 Aviation Technologies

Purpose: This SAFO alerts aircraft owners, operators, air agencies, suppliers, distributors, and maintenance technicians of improper maintenance performed on a variety of aircraft accessories/articles and returned to service by Aviation Technologies, which previously held Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Air Agency Certificate No. X74R704N.

Background: An investigation conducted by the FAA revealed that for over a two-year period, a non-certificated individual, not employed by Aviation Technologies, obtained various aircraft parts/articles in and around Miami, Florida. This individual contacted Aviation Technologies in San Antonio, Texas and obtained documentation from the repair station in order to market the parts. Aviation Technologies issued intentionally false work orders and approvals for return-to-service, FAA Form 8130-3, signed—certifying that Aviation Technologies had performed the maintenance in accordance with Title 14 of the Code of Federal Regulations (14 CFR) Part 145, inspected the articles, and approved the articles for return to service under parts 43, 145, and European Aviation Safety Agency, as airworthy. Aviation Technologies never saw the articles, did not perform any maintenance on them, and never physically inspected them. The articles were then marketed, distributed, and or sold by Aviation Technologies, Aviation Parts and Suppliers, Aviation Parts & Services, Inc., or Aviation Supplier & Services, Inc. These articles are for use on Airbus, Boeing, and McDonnell Douglas aircraft.

Discussion: Depending upon the specific article, there are safety and airworthiness concerns including traceability, time since last overhaul, exceedance of approved repair limits, the actual work accomplished, if any, in addition to the intentional falsification of FAA Form 8130-3 and associated records produced by Aviation Technologies. Federal regulations require that a repair station certify on an article's maintenance release that the article is airworthy with respect to the maintenance, preventive maintenance, or alterations performed by the repair station. The regulations also require that it must inspect each article upon which it has performed maintenance, preventive maintenance, or alterations before approving that article for return to service. Aviation Technologies failed to comply with these requirements and instead, intentionally falsified records to show compliance.

Articles certified as repaired, inspected, or overhauled, and approved for return to service by a repair station—without having done so, along with intentionally falsified documentation and records that indicate otherwise, is 14 CFR parts 43 and 145.

Recommended Action: Aircraft owners, operators, air agencies, suppliers, distributors, and maintenance technicians should inspect aircraft, aircraft records, and/or aircraft part inventories for any accessories/articles approved for return-to-service by Aviation Technologies. Articles discovered installed on an aircraft should be removed and an appropriate return-to-service inspection/action accomplished including inspecting, testing, and checking the articles against established standards to assure they conform to their design requirements and are in a condition for safe operation. Articles in existing aircraft stock should be quarantined to prevent installation until a determination has been made regarding their eligibility for installation including inspecting, testing, and checking the articles against established standards to assure they conform to their design requirements and are in a condition for safe operation. If any articles approved for return to service by Aviation Technologies are found installed on aircraft or in stock, the FAA requests that a copy of the FAA Form 8130-3 and associated purchase documents be forwarded to the contact listed below.

Contact: Questions or comments regarding this SAFO should be directed to Jeffrey Burns, San Antonio, Texas - Flight Standards District Office - 17, at (210) 308-3333 or by e-mail at Jeffrey.burns@faa.gov.