



Safety Information Bulletin

Airworthiness – Operations

SIB No.: 2018-05

Issued: 08 February 2018

Subject: Multi-Purpose Flight Recorders

Ref. Publications:

Penny & Giles Aerospace Limited Service Bulletin (SB) No. D51615-31-22, dated Feb 2018.

Applicability:

Penny & Giles multi-purpose flight recorders (MPFRs), as listed in the effectivity of SB No. D51615-31-22, a copy of which is attached to the record of this SIB on the [EASA SP Tool](#).

Description:

During data recovery from crash-damaged MPFRs, previously installed on five helicopters involved in accidents where the aircraft was submerged in water, corrosion was detected on the pins of memory devices inside the recorder. To recover the data, these units required the use of special techniques, not permitted according to the Minimum Operational Performance Specifications of the relevant ETSO, which delayed the availability of data to accident investigation boards.

This type of corrosion is due to a chemical reaction between the fire insulation material, when partially dissolved in water, and the iron content within the pins of the memory device. Under certain circumstances, the conformal coating on the memory module can be insufficient to protect the device pins from the corrosive solution.

This issue potentially affects certain second generation “GEN2” memory modules installed on MPFRs manufactured between 06 April 2006 and 02 January 2013. The subsequent GEN3 memory modules use a different conformal coating process and are protected from corrosion.

At this time, the safety concern described in this SIB is not considered to be an unsafe condition that would warrant Airworthiness Directive (AD) action under Regulation (EU) [748/2012](#), Part 21.A.3B, nor the issuance of an operational directive under Regulation (EU) [965/2012](#), Annex II, ARO.GEN.135(c).

Recommendation(s):

EASA recommends owners and operators to accomplish the actions as specified in Penny & Giles Aerospace Limited SB No. D51615-31-22 dated Feb 2018.

This is information only. Recommendations are not mandatory.



Contact(s):

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