

7th
GLIDING FEDERATION OF AUSTRALIA

Ap/1
Post Office,
Kangaroo Ground,
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AIRWORTHINESS CIRCULAR 3/67

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SUBJECT : INSPECTION OF TAIL ATTACHMENT FITTINGS

During the recent inspection of an ES-49 glider, the vertical bolt on the tail-plane attachment fitting was found to be so badly cracked that the bolt actually broke in two during handling.

The cause of the failure may have been that the bolt had been seriously weakened during welding at some stage of its life. Alternatively, there is a possibility that, with this type of attachment where a vertical bolt attached to the top of the fuselage goes through the tail-plane, the bolt and fitting is progressively weakened by slight bending during assembly and dismantling of the glider.

Following the ES-49 incident, a telegram was sent to ES-49 operators requiring a mandatory inspection before the next flight.

This incident is brought to your notice as it is considered that special attention should be paid during inspections to this type of fitting in all gliders where the tail-plane is secured in this manner, particularly in the older aircraft such as Grunau and the earlier ES-52s and ES-57s.

C.A. PATCHING

17th March 1967

C.T.O. AIRWORTHINESS

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