

COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT

AIR TRANSPORT GROUP

AIRWORTHINESS DIRECTIVE - GLIDERS

GFA/AD 4/SZD 1

Glider Type Affected - Bocian

This Airworthiness Directive was originally issued in January 1968 as Airworthiness Circular No. 1/68 as below.

SUBJECT : FAILURE OF THE FUSELAGE STRUCTURE SUPPORTING THE  
BELLY CABLE-RELEASE MECHANISM IN BOCIAN GLIDERS.

1. Two cases have been reported of the belly release, together with the release supporting structure, breaking away from the fuselage of a Bocian during launching.
2. We believe that the fuselage structure, supporting the belly release, has been deliberately designed to fail at a load slightly above the weak link load of 2280 lb.
3. Any serious glue separation or deterioration of the release supporting structure could easily lead to failure of the structure below the nominal weak link strength.
4. This Circular calls for an inspection to be carried out on all Bocians to assess if any serious weakening of the belly release supporting structure has taken place.
5. An inspection is to be carried out before the next flight. The inspection and its finding is to be recorded in the glider log book. Particular attention is to be paid to the structure in this region during annual inspections.