



THE GLIDING FEDERATION OF AUSTRALIA INC

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Airworthiness Alert 2020-3 **Unserviceable 'New' TOST Release** **Received with Authorised Release** **Certificate**

Overview

A Service Difficulty Report has been received detailing an unserviceable 'new' TOST release which was accompanied by an Authorised Release Certificate (Release Note). The over-centre adjustment was not correctly set and the release when fitted to the glider failed under test load.

Investigation

The release was fitted and accepted as serviceable due to being accompanied by the release certificate. It was not until the daily inspection was carried out that it proved to be unserviceable by releasing under load. Unfortunately, the pilot elected to undertake an aerotow on the belly release which resulted in a loss of control accident during take-off.

The nose release was subsequently removed from the wreckage, tested and found to be well out of over centre limits. This failure of quality control is being discussed with TOST.

Recommendation/Action

The International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) agreement accepts / permits a component if supported by an Authorised Release Certificate (ARC) issued by an approved organisation, that ARC 'legitimises' that component permitting it to be placed into service without any further maintenance evaluation. There was no wrong doing by the inspector. The release manufacturer had signed off that the release was serviceable and hence ready for service.

This alert is raised to make members aware of the above occurrence. It may be prudent to test any release IAW Basic Sailplane Engineering (BSE) guidelines prior to placing the release into service. That responsibility and decision however is left ultimately up to the Registered Operator of the relevant aircraft.

Reporting

Notify the GFA in the usual manner if you have information relating to any similar or related occurrence.

Dennis Stacey
GFA CTO
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