



## THE GLIDING FEDERATION OF AUSTRALIA

**AD 402**  
(ISSUE 1)

### AIRWORTHINESS DIRECTIVE

**TYPE AFFECTED:** Slingsby Type 51 Dart. All variants.

**SUBJECT:** Inspection for glue failure in fibreglass nose.

**BACKGROUND:** While refurbishing a Dart 17 a crack and relative motion was noted around the fuselage at the junction between the front fibreglass nose and the rest of the fuselage. Note: the fibreglass nose cone and the fuselage shell appear to be one piece but they are not. The seat pan and the paint around the fuselage were removed for further examination and a light load applied to the nose which then fell off.

Examination of the glued surfaces showed very poor bond quality. As the tow hook is mounted on the nose, which was held in only by the poor bond line, the seat pan and the skid, an extreme danger of structural failure during launch existed.

**ACTION REQUIRED:** Before next flight the forward fuselage must be examined for relative motion and for glue failure where the fibreglass is joined to wood.

**WEIGHT AND BALANCE:** Not affected.

**IMPLEMENTATION:** The inspection of the fuselage must be carried out by persons rated "Inspections for issue of a Maintenance release" Wood or FRP.

All repairs must be performed by appropriately rated persons.

**COMPLIANCE:** The requirements of this Airworthiness Directive are mandatory. This Directive is issued pursuant to the Australian Civil aviation Regulations under the delegated authority of the Civil Aviation Authority (CEO42/90).

**SIGNED:**

CHIEF TECHNICAL OFFICER AIRWORTHINESS

For and on behalf of:

**THE GLIDING FEDERATION  
OF AUSTRALIA**

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