## NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION WASHINGTON, D.C. 20591

February 27, 1969

Mr. David D. Thomas Acting Administrator Federal Aviation Administration Department of Transportation Washington, D. C. 20590

Dear Mr. Thomas:

On July 25, 1968, an Allegheny Airlines Convair 580, N5817, was involved in an accident at Morgantown Municipal Airport, Morgantown, West Virginia. During a scheduled landing one of the main landing gear wheels separated from its axle and rolled into the number two propeller. Parts of the wheel were thrown into the side of the fuselage and the propeller separated from the engine, causing an engine fire.

Our investigation of this accident disclosed that the threads of the wheel retaining nut had failed, permitting the nut and the wheel to separate from the axle. Laboratory examination of the failed nut showed that it was made of a comparatively soft, low strength steel (Hardness: 89 Rockwell B, approximate tensile strength 87,000 p.s.i.). The nut was marked "AN7502-39" and we were informed that this was the designation of the nut required for the wheel installation. Also, we were provided with a copy of Allegheny Airlines Fleet Campaign Directive 68-101, dated July 31, 1968, pertaining to a check for excessive wear on main landing gear Wheel retaining nuts. This Directive states, under Bill of Material, "as required AN7502-39 nut. Note: Wheel retaining nut should be available to replace worn nuts located by this FCD." However, a used nut from another CV-580 main gear axle, which was obtained for comparison with the failed nut, was marked "MS21025-39." The comparison nut was made of stronger material than the failed nut, showing a hardness of 31 Rockwell C and a tensile strength of about 140,000 p.s.i.

Examination of Air Force-Navy Aeronautical Standard AN7502, Nut, Wheel Bearing Retaining, showed that it contained the following notes:

- "(6) CANCELLED AFTER 27 January 1959, USE MS21025.
- "(6) The cancelled AN7502 parts are not suitable for use in any application. Use MS21025 parts identified by the same dash number in all design and for replacement of cancelled AN7502 parts in all existing aeronautical weapons and support systems. Safety of flight may be involved."

Copies of both AN7502 and MS21025 are enclosed.

In view of the possible serious consequences of the failure of AN7502 nuts in critical applications it is recommended that: (1) Appropriate action be taken to assure that AN7502 wheel retaining nuts now being used by Allegheny Airlines, and possibly by other carriers and in general aviation, be replaced with MS21025 nuts, and (2) an investigation be conducted to determine whether AN7502 nuts are being used in other critical applications in civil aviation where replacement with MS21025 nuts would result in increased safety.

Our staff will be available for any assistance it might be able to give you in this matter.

Sincerely yours,

O'Connell, Jr.

Enclosures

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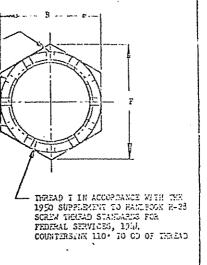
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PLATING: CADMINN FLATE, 22-9-116, TYPE II, CLASS 3.
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