

UNAPPROVED PARTS NOTIFICATION

No. 94-196
August 26, 1996

AFFECTED ENGINE: Pratt & Whitney R-985

INTRODUCTION:

The purpose of this alert is to advise all owners, operators, maintenance entities, and manufacturers of the above model radial engine, that certain bearings, part number 12768, were produced without an FAA Production Approval.

BACKGROUND:

A recent investigation based on a suspected unapproved parts report has yielded concern that some operators may be using military surplus bearings for installation in R-985-SB-3 radial engines. The bearings in question may have contributed to the forced landing of a Dehavilland DHC-2MK. These bearings are packed in a United States Army olive drab can. The can identifies its contents as Pratt & Whitney part number 12768 and the exterior label states that contents were packed and sealed in January, 1964. There is no reference to an FAA Production Approval. The outer race may contain the markings "MRC 304R Gurney" and areas of the bearing assembly may be corroded. It is suspected that these bearings were intended for use in ground power units or tank engines.

RECOMMENDATION:

Type Certificated products are required to conform to their Type Design. Owners, operators, maintenance entities, and manufacturers should inspect their affected aircraft and/or stock for the referenced part number. Parts which cannot be traced to an approved source should be considered suspect and appropriate action taken.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

The FAA Manufacturing Inspection District Office (MIDO), listed below, would appreciate any information that you could provide concerning the discovery of these parts from any source, the means used to identify the source, and the actions taken to remove them from aircraft and/or stock.

This notice originated from the New Cumberland, PA, MIDO, 400 Airport Road, Room 102, New Cumberland, PA 17070-3419; telephone (717) 782-4425, fax (717) 782-2231 and was published through the Suspected Unapproved Parts Program Office, AVR-20, telephone (703) 661-0111, fax (703) 661-0113.