Safety Recommendation Number:	IRLD2017009
AAIU Event Reference:	IRL00916030
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Safety Recommendation Status:	Implemented, closed

Safety Recommendation:

The British Microlight Aircraft Association (BMAA) should consider developing fuel tank inspection instructions for aircraft for which it has oversight that are fitted with composite fuel tanks, for action by its members and verify compliance with the instructions during the Permit to Fly validity certificate renewal process.

Response:

December 2017:

The BMAA responded to the AAIU on 19 December 2017 with the following:

The BMAA has determined the aircraft types (from those for which it is responsible for continued airworthiness) that may have composite fuel tanks fitted that could be susceptible to deterioration due to ethanol in mogas (the Shadow was addressed in 2011 with BMAA SB2336 and the approval of replacement aluminium fuel tanks).

Of these, we have identified one aircraft type, the Chevvron 2-32 (10 airframes), that has a composite tank that is reportedly adversely affected by mogas containing ethanol. We are in the process of investigating further prior to deciding on appropriate action.

The BMAA has also identified five aircraft types (27 airframes) that, although not normally fitted with composite tanks, may have composite tanks fitted. We are in the process of clarifying the situation with regard to these individual airframes.

April 2018

The BMAA responded further to the AAIU on 12 April 2018 advising that:

"The BMAA has issued a Microlight Airworthiness Approval Note on the subject (MAAN 2695) and an associated Service Bulletin (2695, Issue 1), which will be sent to all BMAA Inspectors and BMAA members.

Microlight Airworthiness Approval Note 2695 refers to the findings of the AAIU Investigation Report and the Safety Recommendation issued to the BMAA, and notes that the fuel tank and fuel system are already listed in the relevant inspection schedules. Service Bulletin 2695, Issue 1, provides information on the potential hazardous effects of MOGAS on composite fuel tanks, due to its ethanol content. It also notes that ethanol can adversely affect seal and gasket materials."

AAIU Comment:

The AAIU considers the status of this Safety Recommendation as "Implemented, closed"