

Safety Recommendation Number:	IRLD2015005
AAIU Event Reference:	IRL00914037
AAIU Report Number:	2015-003
Date of Publication of Safety Recommendation:	18 February 2015
Safety Recommendation Status:	Implemented, closed

Safety Recommendation:

The Federal Aviation Administration should consider mandating repetitive visual and non-destructive inspections of Beechcraft Duchess 76 A-frames P/Ns 105-810023-75 and 105-810023-76.

Response:

April 2015 -

The Federal Aviation Administration advised the AAIU by letter dated 3 April 2015 that they are currently progressing with Textron Aviation, investigation of the areas discussed by the recommendation and reviewing the appropriateness of implementation.

June 2015 -

The Federal Aviation Administration responded further by letter dated 23 June 2015 advising the AAIU as follows:

"FAA Comment. The FAA has coordinated with Textron Aviation to design new parts and develop additional inspection tasks to alleviate the failure condition. A revised service bulletin (SB) will provide new inspections and replacement parts for the Beechcraft Duchess 76 fleet. Once Textron Aviation completes certification activity and the revised SB, the FAA will evaluate the need for mandating these actions through an Airworthiness Directive.

We expect Textron Aviation to complete certification activity by December 20 IS. Once they have completed this activity, we will provide an updated response by February 29, 2016.

The FAA would like to thank the AAIU for submitting FAA Safety Recommendation 15.021 and its continued interest in aviation safety."

January 2017 -

Correspondence from the FAA received in January 2017 updated the AAIU as follows :

The certification plan has been approved, and we are awaiting substantiating data and the Service Bulletin, recommending FAA approval, by Textron Aviation. We

previously reported that we expected this certification activity to be completed by December 2015; however, due to technical questions and comments that the FAA had on Textron Aviation's draft Service Bulletin, and necessary meetings between the FAA and Textron to discuss these issues, this has taken longer than anticipated. We now expect Textron Aviation to complete certification activity by June 1, 2017. Once they have completed this activity, we will provide a final response to this Safety Recommendation by July 1 2017.

April 2018 -

A further update was received on 27 April 2018 from the Aircraft Manufacturer as follows:

Textron provided an update to the AAIU, advising that the FAA has verbally accepted/approved the engineering analysis on a new and improved "A" Frame part and are working with the FAA to obtain formal approval and that work is ongoing regarding an associated Service Bulletin.

September 2018-

The FAA provided the following update to the AAIU on the 12/09/2018

"The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) determined that a new superseding Airworthiness Directive (AD) is necessary to add new inspection requirements alleviating the identified failure condition. We coordinated this safety recommendation with Textron Aviation, and they committed to designing new replacement parts and developing additional inspection tasks for current parts to alleviate the failure condition. We expect Textron to complete the certification project necessary to support this activity by December 2019. Textron will follow up with a service bulletin to include additional repetitive visual and non-destructive inspections. The service bulletin will also add new replacement parts as an optional terminating action for the additional inspections. The FAA will pursue a superseding AD referencing this service bulletin when it becomes available, and will provide a final response to this Safety Recommendation upon release of the new AD for public comment".

September 2019-

The FAA provided the following update to the AAIU on the 03/09/2019

"[...]. We currently are waiting for a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) Airworthiness Directive (AD) to be published, which will supersede AD 97-06-10, Main Landing Gear "A" Frame Assembly. In addition, on May 3, 2019, Textron Aviation published Mandatory Service Bulletin SB 32-4156, Landing Gear - Inspection/Replacement of the Main Landing Gear "A" Frame Assemblies for Fatigue Cracks. This Mandatory Service Bulletin affects Beech Model 76 Duchess airplanes

and was issued to prevent collapse of the main landing gear by requiring inspections for fatigue cracks adjacent to the gussets for the torque arm of each main landing gear "A" Frame. [...].

We [the FAA] anticipate providing an update on this safety recommendation by June 2020. [...].”

June 2020-

The FAA provided the following update to the AAIU on the 23/06/2020:

"As previously stated, the FAA determined an unsafe condition exists for the Beechcraft 76 aircraft. We are preparing to issue a notice of proposed rulemaking (NPRM) for an airworthiness directive (AD) that will address the issue. We are currently working through the prioritization of our Ads, and for this reason, are unable to estimate when this particular NPRM will be published. I [the FAA] anticipate providing our next response by July 31, 2021."

December 2021-

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) advised the AAIU by letter dated 7 December 2021 as follows:

“The FAA published Airworthiness Directive (AD) 2021-08-06 in the Federal Register (86 FR 20442) on April 20, 2021, to address the Beechcraft Duchess 79 airplane, main landing gear A-frame assembly”.

AAIU Comment:

30/04/2018 - The AAIU considers the status of this recommendation to be one of "In process of implementation"

08/10/2018 - The AAIU considers the status of this recommendation to be one of "In process of implementation"

04/09/2019 - The AAIU considers the status of this recommendation to be one of "In process of implementation".

24/06/2020 - The AAIU considers the status of this recommendation to be one of "In process of implementation".

14/12/2021 - The AAIU considers the status of this recommendation as "Implemented, Closed".