

UNAPPROVED PARTS NOTIFICATION

SUSPECTED UNAPPROVED PARTS PROGRAM OFFICE, AVS-20
13873 PARK CENTER ROAD, SUITE 165
HERNDON, VA 20171



U.S. Department
of Transportation

**Federal Aviation
Administration**

*No. 2006-00058
October 5, 2006*

<http://www.faa.gov/aircraft/safety/programs/sups/upn/>

AFFECTED AIRCRAFT

Hot air balloons.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this notification is to advise all aircraft owners, manufacturers, maintenance organizations, and parts suppliers and distributors regarding improper maintenance performed on hot air balloons.

BACKGROUND

Information received during a Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) suspected unapproved parts investigation revealed that between August 2002 and November 2005, Micki's Balloon Repair (Micki's), located at 4005 W. Pinecrest Drive, Marshall, TX 75670, improperly repaired and approved for return to service various hot air balloons. Micki's holds FAA Air Agency Certificate No. MKOR497X.

Evidence indicates that Micki's approved for return to service hot air balloons that were not maintained in accordance with the methods, techniques, and practices prescribed in the current manufacturer's maintenance manual or Instructions for Continued Airworthiness.

Discrepancies noted in Micki's practices included, but are not limited to, the following:

- The use of unapproved fabric in the repair of various balloons. No certificate of equivalency could be produced for the fabric used. Specifically, Micki's used a Kenyon Industries, Inc., 70D/34 1.9 OZ RIP T95 T66 fabric, which is not authorized by the Aerostar maintenance manual.
- Failure to produce certification documents for various rolls of balloon material used in the repair process.
- Failure to maintain a current repair station/quality manual.
- Failure to maintain tools that are used to make airworthiness determinations in a current calibrated status.
- Failure to properly segregate unserviceable parts from serviceable parts.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Regulations require that type-certificated products conform to their type design. Aircraft owners, operators, maintenance organizations, and parts distributors should inspect their aircraft, aircraft records, and or parts inventories for any balloon repair work accomplished by Micki's between

August 2002 and November 2005. If any repairs were performed, appropriate action should be taken. If any of the referenced fabric is found in existing inventory, it is recommended that the fabric be quarantined to prevent installation until a determination can be made regarding the fabric's eligibility for installation.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Further information concerning this investigation, and guidance regarding the above-referenced maintenance, can be obtained from the FAA Flight Standards District Office (FSDO) given below. The FAA would appreciate any information concerning the discovery of the fabric from any source, the means used to identify the source, and the action taken to remove the fabric from aircraft and/or stock.

This notice originated from the FAA Dallas FSDO, 3300 Love Field Dr., Dallas, TX 75235, telephone (214) 902-1800, fax (214) 902-1862; and was published through the FAA Suspected Unapproved Parts Program Office, telephone (703) 668-3720, fax (703) 481-3002.