SERVICE BULLETIN

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PITTS SPECIAL

DATE: January 31, 1992

SERVICE BULLETIN - NO. 18

Engineering Aspects are

FAA approved.

SUBJECT:

1) Pitts Wing Fabric

2) Pitts Rib Stitching

MODELS AFFECTED:

 All Pitts Aircraft manufactured by Christen Industries Inc. prior to August 1987 covered with Grade A Cotton Fabric.

2) All Pitts Aircraft manufactured by Christen Industries Inc.

prior to February 1989.

TIME OF COMPLIANCE:

At earliest convenience

It has been reported recently that certain Pitts Special Aircraft built by Christen Industries Inc. prior to August 1987 have wing coverings with Grade A Cotton Fabric which may now test below the minimum strength limits defined by FAA AC 43.13-1A.

Appendix D of FAR 43 and the Pitts Special Owners and Maintenance Manual require that aircraft fabric is to be tested (for strength) every 100 hours or at annual inspections whichever occurs first. It appears that this requirement has not been complied with fully in all instances. As Grade A Cotton Fabric will in any event deteriorate with age and use (fair wear and tear) depending on the conditions under which an aircraft is flown and stored over a period, it is essential that this requirement is met.

Accordingly Aviat Inc. advises and recommends all owners of Pitts Special Aircraft manufactured and covered with Grade A Cotton Fabric prior to August 1987 have their aircraft coverings inspected and tested for fabric strength and condition at the earliest convenience.

Aviat Inc. has become aware that rib-stitching with #9 waxed cord may be subject to excessive wear and fraying on Pitts Special Aircraft built by Christen Industries Inc. prior to February 1989.

Accordingly Aviat Inc. advises all owners of such Pitts Special Aircraft to inspect all ribstitching at their earliest convenience, particularly in those areas affected by propeller wash.

Aviat Inc. requests you notify them of any defects discovered so that they may advise what further action should be taken.