



Replies to Frequently Asked Questions regarding the Wing Spar Caps

Q. Can I continue to fly my aircraft?

A. The MPD allows aircraft to continue flying, but with reduced speeds, for 6 months. We hope this will allow time to test the whole fleet. We will be giving priority to flying schools.

To aid us to organise testing of several aircraft at once (to reduce travelling time and costs) can you please fill out the attached form detailing where your aircraft is hangared (including postcode for the Sat Nav), contact phone numbers, email addresses etc. and return it to us as soon as possible.

Q. When will the inspection process begin?

A. Each aircraft will need to have an inspection hole cut in each wing underneath, in order to access the outer point of the spar caps for testing. This will subsequently be covered by a plate. It is necessary to get a modification approved to install the inspection holes – this may take a few weeks. The full testing will start when the mod is cleared and the final inspection schedule is approved.

In the meantime we have been checking all our stock wings and a few in the field using all the proposed tests except the one mentioned above. Results have been very encouraging.

Q. Who will be carrying out the tests?

A. The tests will be carried out by Cosmik approved staff, however other personnel may carry out the test as long as they have had training.

Q. How is an acceptable wing spar strength going to be determined?

A. The strength is determined by two separate tests – one measures the hardness and the other electrical conductivity of the material. Both tests are carried out at numerous locations within the Spar Caps. Evektor has spent a lot of time devising the test procedure and ensuring that it gives accurate results.

Q. What happens if a wing fails the tests?

A. If a wing spar fails the test, the wings will have to be sent back to the Czech Republic for repair, which would involve replacing the lower wing spar caps with new ones.

Q. If needed, how long will the repair take?

A. The duration of the remedial work is unknown – Evektor have 700 aircraft worldwide and until the tests are carried out it is not known how many will need repairing. However, the absolute minimum time out would be a month to allow for transportation and for the work to be carried out. However it could be much longer if we try and save transport costs by filling a lorry etc, or if higher failure rates are found than expected. Evektor obviously only have a limited amount of qualified manpower.

Q. Who is going to pay for all this work?

A. The labour and parts costs for the test itself will be covered by Cosmik – however, travelling expenses (if you wish to have the test carried out at your airfield rather than bringing your aircraft/wings to our factory) will have to be borne by the customer. If a wing is found to be defective, Evektor have stated that they will cover the cost of the repair (parts & labour) – again however transportation costs to the Czech republic will have to be borne by the customer. These costs will depend on how quickly you want your aircraft repaired – obviously it is much cheaper to fill an entire lorry with wings than to send one pair at a time. Cosmik will help with these costs as much as possible, however at the moment we do not know how many aircraft are going to be affected so we cannot guarantee to cover all costs.

Our aim, and that of Evektor, is to get as many aircraft back to full operation as soon as possible with the minimum expense to owners, but without going out of business ourselves too. We hope that we can all work together to deal with this material supplier caused issue and get the positive result we are all looking for.

Q. When will the temporary speed restrictions be lifted?

A. Once aircraft have been tested OK, the aircraft can immediately return to normal service and the speed restrictions will be removed. However, every aircraft must be checked regardless of the result pattern.

I hope this answers most of your questions, but if you have more please email them to bulletins@cosmikaviation.co.uk and we will answer them as quickly and accurately as we can. Please note that we are officially closed from 5 pm on 23rd December until 9 am on 4th January. We will however have staff working on this issue and checking emails during this period.