

SERVICE LETTER 4

SUBJECT: Exhaust system cracking.

APPLICATION: All four cylinder Glasairs with Stoddard-Hamilton exhaust systems.

DISCUSSION: We have received two field reports of stainless steel exhaust systems in which cracks have formed at the welded joint of the crossover tube and the #1 or #3 cylinder riser tubes. Because there have only been two reported cases from hundreds of Glasairs flying since 1981 with stainless steel exhaust, we are only bringing it up as a point of information and recommended inspection area.

Mild steel exhaust systems, which were discontinued some time ago, have a more limited fatigue life and is therefore more prone to cracking. These parts should be monitored more closely.

Our exhaust vendor reports cases (in other aircraft) where the exhaust was wrapped with heat tape causing the pipe to overheat. The high temperature weakens the pipe and can allow it to crack more easily.

If a high level of vibration is noticed (such as a propeller out of balance) the cause of the vibration should be dealt with as soon as possible. Such a vibration can cause fatigue cracking to occur.

Inspect these areas more frequently and pay close attention to the welded "Y" joints. Let us know if you experience any of these problems.



MODEL	ASSEMBLY NAME	REVISION	DATE	VOLUME	PAGE
GLASAIR	SERVICE LETTER 4		01/04/94		1 of 1