



**SERVICE BULLETIN # 128**

December 1, 1990

**SUBJECT:** Aurora 54K ELS Basket

**APPLICABILITY:** ELS Basket Serial Number 101-125 with dual vertical tank installation.

**PROBLEM:** Factory testing has revealed that the center support tube on the Aurora ELS basket may be susceptible to separation from the skid due to an error in manufacturing. The standard installation of a horizontal 20 gallon fuel tank is not affected, as the tank mooring strap provides more than adequate support for the tube. The dual vertical tank installation, however, does not provide this support. In the event of a very hard landing, the tube could be separated after significant bending.

**CORRECTIVE ACTION:** The installation of a threaded rod is required to prevent separation of the skid and support tube, in the event of a very hard landing.

**DISCUSSION:** The procedure outlined herein is not recognized as preventative maintenance and therefore may not be performed by persons other than those recognized by the FAA to perform aircraft repairs/alterations. Hot air balloon repair stations or repairman certificate holders are qualified to perform this procedure.

**PROCEDURE:**

- 1) Obtain tube reinforcement, P/N 52483, from Aerostar and refer to the enclosed drawing.
- 2) Locate the center support tube under the basket floor. Measure 5/16 +0 -1/16 below the bottom of the rectangular notch on the skid and make a mark.
- 3) Drill a 3/16 hole directly through the skid at the marked location. Counterbore the hole 3/4 in. dia. X 3/8 in. deep.
- 4) Repeat (2) and (3) for the opposing skid.
- 5) Insert the threaded rod through the hole and install the washers and nuts on each side. Use loctite #271 red to secure the nuts when in place.
- 6) Torque the nuts so that 1/8 in. of rod protrudes out from the edge of the skid as shown on the drawing.
- 7) Endorse the aircraft logbook to show compliance with this service bulletin.