AEROSTAR INTERNATIONAL, INC. August 10, 2011 SERVICE BULLETIN #138

SUBJECT: Suspected faulty fuel hose (PARKER)

PROBLEM: Leaks and reduced fuel flows were detected in recently manufactured fuel

hoses that were not present or detected at the time of manufacture.

DISCUSSION: A faulty hose was then returned to Aerostar and subsequently to Parker for

failure analysis. Examination revealed that there is a manufacturing defect that has caused or allowed the central tube in the hose to partially collapse

into itself.

APPLICABILITY: This Service Bulletin applies to all replacement hoses that were produced

between January 31, 2011 and March 17, 2011. The affected hoses will be

described in the subsequent paragraphs.

CORRECTIVE ACTION: The hoses which are affected by this Service Bulletin will have an

identification line of information printed on the side of the hose. The information which is critical will be the "9-3Q10". This indicates that the hose was produced in September in the third quarter of 2010 by Parker. Subsequently, Aerostar manufactured these into aircraft hoses during January, February and March of 2011. Thus, these hoses will also have a

stamp in an end fitting reading "1Q11". If a hose bears the above markings, the following procedure must be followed before future flight.

PROCEDURE: Prior to next flight after receipt of this bulletin:

Step 1: Inspect each hose in the balloon system to determine if the stamp on the end fitting is "1Q11". If so, continue to Step 2. If not, the hose is not

affected by this Service bulletin.

Step 2: Inspect the hose imprint to determine if the "9-3Q10" appears on the imprint. If so, continue to Step 3. If not, the hose is not affected by this Service bulletin. (Hoses not legibly marked that have an end fitting stamp per Step 1 must be considered as suspect by this Service Bulletin. Please contact Aerostar for confirmation as there are a very small number of hoses

sold on Aerostar sales orders that are listed below.)

Step 3: Immediately cease use of hose which fits the above criteria!

Step 4: Remove the entire fuel hose manifold* and return it to the address listed below. Upon receipt of that hose, a replacement will be shipped to you for installation in the balloon system. The installation of this hose may be performed as preventative maintenance.* The balloon may then be

returned to service.**

COMPLIANCE: This service bulletin must be complied with prior to any further flight.

Address: Aerostar International, Inc.

1814 "F" Ave.

Sioux Falls, SD 57104

Attn: Jeff Albert

*Note: The hose assembly replacement can only be considered preventative

maintenance if the hose is removed as a complete piece from the burner JIC to POL/CGA 555 fitting at the tank. Do not remove or disassemble the

hose at pipe fittings.

**Note: Suggested logbook entry for hose replacement:

"Hoses replaced per Aerostar Service Bulletin 138 as preventative

maintenance and returned to service." MM/DD/YY First, Last Name, Pilot

Certificate Number, Signature.

Aerostar Sales Order Numbers Affected:

204314

204297

204295

204291

204273 204248

204243

207273

204221

204188

204184

204128

204123

204106

204105

204097

204065

204060

204023