

Service Letter

Subject:

Operation of the Fuel Shut-off Valve in Flight

Applicability:

All GA8 Aircraft.

Background:

A recent GA8 Airvan incident has highlighted the possibility of damage to the seals and shaft of the engine driven rotary fuel pump, if that pump is deprived of a supply of fuel during flight. A Civil Aviation Safety Authority (Australia) report make reference, from one fuel pump manufacturer that operation of a rotary fuel pump for as little as 30 seconds without an adequate fuel supply can significantly damage the internal seals in the pump.

Compliance:

It is recommended that the instruction be complied with immediately.

Instruction:

Gippsland Aeronautics Pty Ltd recommends that the fuel shut-off valve should not be operated in flight, except in an emergency, as serious damage to the engine driven fuel pump can occur if the fuel supply to the engine is restricted.

A copy of the Civil Aviation Safety Authority report, titled "GA-8 Airvan Fuel System Test Report" (document number TR24112008), is available in the Technical Reports section found on the Gippsland Aeronautics web site, at www.gippsaero.com.