

Airworthiness Directive

73-20 Schleicher

Date: February 21, 1973

Affected Glider Model: ASW 15

German Type Certificate No.272

Serial Numbers 15001 thru 15183

Reason

During the 1973 South African Gliding Championship one case of rudder jamming occurred, notwithstanding the fact that the Modification in accordance with Technical Note No.3 had been properly incorporated. The pilot successfully could managed an emergency landing. Reason for the jamming was the deformation of the rudder nose caused by great heat, severe enough to cause interference between the rudder nose an the fin shroud.

Action

1. In accordance with Schleicher Technical Note ASW No.10 check if the gap between fin and rudder nose is conform the measurements indicated on Drawing No.1.
If the gap is too narrow or a deformation of the rudder nose is detected, the rudder nose should be heated with an electric heat blower.
(The rudder must be installed on the fin and fully deflected to the right. All areas surrounding the deformed area should be protected with wood or foam fabric against possible damage by heat influence).
The throughly heated and now deformable nose is bent inward (see drawing No.2) until the gap between fin and rudder nose has the required aperture.
Check again after having cooled off.
2. Thereafter remove rudder from the fin and reinforce in accordance with Schleicher Technical Note ASW No.10 and drawing 150 36/37 Bl.33 considering proposal A (poplar or lime tree wood) or proposal B (balsa + FRP).
Glue joints must be well prepared and sanded.
Thereafter the installed parts and the glue joints must be preserved by a suitable paint. Then the rudder again can be installed.
At full deflection to the left check that the new nose does not interfere wit. the spar of the fin or strikes at the upper fitting.

Compliance

Before April 15, 1973.

Accomplishment by an authorized person only and to be entered in the aircraft log by a licensed inspector.

Note:

For technical information please contact Manufacturer, Messrs. Alexander Schleicher, Segelflugzeugbau, 6416 Poppenhausen, W.Germany.