

81-21-02 R1 - Hook and pile fastener tape

Aerostar-Raven:

Category - Balloons

Effective Date - 10/13/1981 Recurring - Yes

Supersedes - N/A Superseded by - N/A

RAVEN INDUSTRIES INC:

Amendment 39-4232 as amended by Amendment 39-4820.

Applies to Models S-40A, S-50A, S-55A, S-60A, S-66A, RX-6, RX-7 and W100LB hot air balloons, certificated in any category, which have deflation panels using continuous hook and pile fastener tape around the circumference except where the panel is sewn to the envelope.

Compliance: Required as indicated, unless already accomplished.

To prevent unwanted opening of the deflation panel, accomplish the following:

(A) On balloons not equipped with Raven FAA Approved Balloon Flight Manual dated April 15, 1983, before each inflation for the purpose of flight, verify the condition of the deflation panel as follows:

(1) Visually check the deflation panel hook and pile fastener tape.

(2) Remove debris and foreign matter from the tape and check for damage due to wear, or deterioration caused by heat.

(3) Check the tape for adequate retention capability by the following procedure:

(a) Mate several 15-20 inch sections firmly by hand around the circumference.

(b) Grasp the fabric firmly, approximately 12 inches on either side of and perpendicular to the mated portions, and apply a pull of approximately 20 pounds. A spring scale may be used to measure the load. If the fastener tape separates, it is unacceptable for flight.

(4) The checks required by paragraphs (A)(1) through (A)(3) of this AD may be accomplished by a person holding at least a private pilot certificate with free balloon rating.

Note: A maintenance record entry as prescribed by FAR 91.173 is required when complying with this AD.

(5) Whenever the hook and pile fastener tape is found unacceptable, inspect and repair according to Raven Service Bulletin No. 112, dated March 16, 1981, or Raven Instructions for Continued Airworthiness for Hot Air Balloons, dated December 23, 1981.

(B) On all balloons of the applicable models regardless of date of Approved Flight Manual installed, **at intervals not to exceed 100 hours** of balloon inflated-buoyant time or at each annual inspection, whichever occurs first, conduct a test of the hook and pile tape for adequate retention in accordance with Raven Service Bulletin No. 112.

(C) An equivalent method of complying with this AD may be used if approved by the Manager, Chicago Aircraft Certification Office, ACE-115C, 2300 East Devon Avenue, Des Plaines, Illinois 60018.

Amendment 79-4232 became effective October 13, 1981.

This Amendment 39-4820 becomes effective March 8, 1984.
