

AEROSTAR  
SERVICE BULLETIN #120

May 15, 1986

SUBJECT Suspected faulty fuel hose (AEROQUIP)

PROBLEM Leaks were detected during the preflight inspection of two separate Aerostar (Raven) balloon systems.

DISCUSSION The faulty hoses were then returned to Aerostar and subsequently to Aeroquip for failure analysis. Examination revealed that there was a very fine slit inside the tube which had resulted from premature aging.

APPLICABILITY This Service Bulletin applies to all new Aerostar (Raven) hot air balloon systems which were produced between 1 July 1984 and 12 May 1986. Additionally, any factory replacement hoses which were purchased from the factory during the above timeframe are affected. This includes the following models: S-40A, S-50A, S-55A, S-60A, S-66A, S-77A, RX-6, RX-7, and W-100LB. 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. This information will read

"AEROQUIP FC321-06 UL 5/16 LP-GAS HOSE 350 MAX. OPER. PSI 3Q84"  
or "AREOQUIP FC321-06 UL 5/16 LP-GAS HOSE 350 MAX. OPER. PSI 4Q84"

The information which is critical will be either the 3Q84 or 4Q84. This indicates that the hose was produced during the third or fourth quarter of 1984. Any other marking (such as 2Q84, 1Q85, 2Q85...) are not affected by this bulletin and may remain in service. If 3Q84 or 4Q84 appear at the end of the information line, the balloon must not be flown until these hoses have been removed and sent back to the factory for replacement.

PROCEDURE Step 1: Inspect each hose in the balloon system to determine if the quarter imprint is 3Q84 or 4Q84.

Step 2: If the hose is 3Q84 or 4Q84 or the quarter imprint is not on that hose, 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 preventive maintenance. The balloon may then be returned to service.

Step 3: If the hose marking was present and was other than 3Q84 or 4Q84, the balloon may immediately be returned to service.

Aerostar International, Inc  
1812 "E" Ave.  
Sioux Falls, South Dakota  
57104  
ATTN: Richard Andrews