

**AEROSTAR INTERNATIONAL, INC.
SERVICE BULLETIN #132**

August 12, 1993

SUBJECT Suspected faulty fuel hose (AEROQUIP).

PROBLEM Leaks were detected during the preflight inspection of one Aerostar (Raven) balloon system.

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.

APPLICABILITY This Service Bulletin applies to all new Aerostar (Raven) hot air balloon systems which were produced between 4/23/92 and 8/02/93. 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-49A, S-50A, S-52A, S-55A, S-57A, S-57S, S-60S, S-60A, S-66A, S-71A, S-77A, RX-6, RX-7, RX-8, RX-S8, 78C, 90C, QUBE-80, CTS, W100LB, 110P, and SP11. 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 1Q92

AEROQUIP FC321-06 UP 5/16 LP-GAS HOSE 350 MAX. OPER. PSI 2Q92

AEROQUIP FC321-06 UP 5/16 LP-GAS HOSE 350 MAX. OPER. PSI 3Q92

AEROQUIP FC321-06 UP 5/16 LP-GAS HOSE 350 MAX. OPER. PSI 4Q92

The information which is critical will be either the 1Q92, 2Q92, 3Q92 or 4Q92. This indicates that the hose was produced during the first, second, third or fourth quarter of 1992. Any other markings are not affected by this bulletin and may remain in service. If 1Q92, 2Q92, 3Q92 or 4Q92 appear at the end of the information line, 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 quarter imprinted is 1Q92, 2Q92, 3Q92 or 4Q92. (Hoses not legibly marked must be considered as suspect by this service bulletin)

If any hoses have those markings listed in step 1

During the next 10 hours of flight time (or 30 days from receipt of this bulletin), the fuel hoses must be leak inspected during preflight while removed from the leather sleeve. At system pressure, sniff test the entire length of the hose, paying careful attention for other leakage signs, such as frosting or chilling. At the end of the grace period, or if leakage is found before that time, proceed with Step 2:

Step 2: 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. (For hoses which are not legibly marked, a determination may be necessary at Aerostar to ascertain manufacture date applicability). The installation of this hose may be performed as preventative maintenance.* The balloon may then be returned to service.**

Step 3: If the hose marking is present and other than 1Q92, 2Q92, 3Q92 or 4Q92, the balloon may be immediately returned to service.***

* Note: The hose assembly replacement can only be considered preventative maintenance if the hose is removed as a complete piece from burner JIC to POL/CGA 555 fitting. Do not remove or disassemble the hose at pipe fittings.

**Note: Suggested logbook entry for hose replacement:

"Hoses replaced per Aerostar Service Bulletin 132 as preventative maintenance and returned to service. MM/DD/YY Firstname Last NNN-MM-ZZZZ"

***Note: Suggested logbook entry for non-applicable hose assemblies:

"Hoses inspected per Aerostar Service Bulletin 132 and are found airworthy for return to service. MM/DD/YY Firstname Last NNN-MM-ZZZZ"

Address: Aerostar International, Inc.
1812 "E" Avenue
Sioux Falls, SD 57104
Attn: Dee M. Rose