



1813 "E" Avenue • P.O. Box 5057 • Sioux Falls, SD 57117-5057

AEROSTAR SERVICE BULLETIN #133

DATE OF ISSUE: AUG 23 1994

SUBJECT: *All Baskets with 4-Point Aluminum Superstructures*

APPLICABILITY: *RWS baskets S/N 101-598
CW baskets S/N 3025-3115
CWS baskets S/N 3033-3104
Any baskets retrofitted with a 4-point aluminum superstructure.*

PROBLEM: *Aluminum support tubes on 4-point systems may be susceptible to damage normally hidden by the load block. Contributing factors may include metal fatigue and unusual torque forces on load fittings induced during inflation tie-off and/or tether operations. This can result in highly concentrated localized stresses in the support tube.*

DISCUSSION: *In a very limited number of instances one or more support tubes have failed at the bottom bolt hole of the load block fitting. The occurrence is more common in high-wind inflation tie-off, or high-wind tether situations which exert a rotational torque on the load block fittings. Further investigations have revealed evidence of fatigue fractures and fretting around the bolt hole prior to failure.*

CORRECTIVE ACTION: *A cable back-up redundancy system is to be installed in accordance with the enclosed procedure and utilizing a factory supplied parts kit.*

The cable installation is considered a protective measure in the nature of preventative maintenance, and therefore may be performed by the owner/operator of the aircraft.

For systems without upright covers (leather or cordura), a cordura sleeve will be provided to cover the support tube and cable.

**COMPLIANCE
SCHEDULE:**

Owner/operator must comply with the requirements of this Service Bulletin within 30 days of the date of issue, or before the next flight of the aircraft (if longer than 30 days), or no longer than the next annual/100 hr. inspection, in any case.

Furthermore, no inflation tie-off restraints or tether operations are authorized until compliance with this Service Bulletin is complete.

Owner/operator of applicable baskets shall obtain detailed instructions and the retrofit kit needed to comply with this Service Bulletin by contacting:

*Aerostar Customer Service
Attn: Dee Rose
.1812 E Avenue
Sioux Falls, SD 57104
Tel. (605) 331-3500*

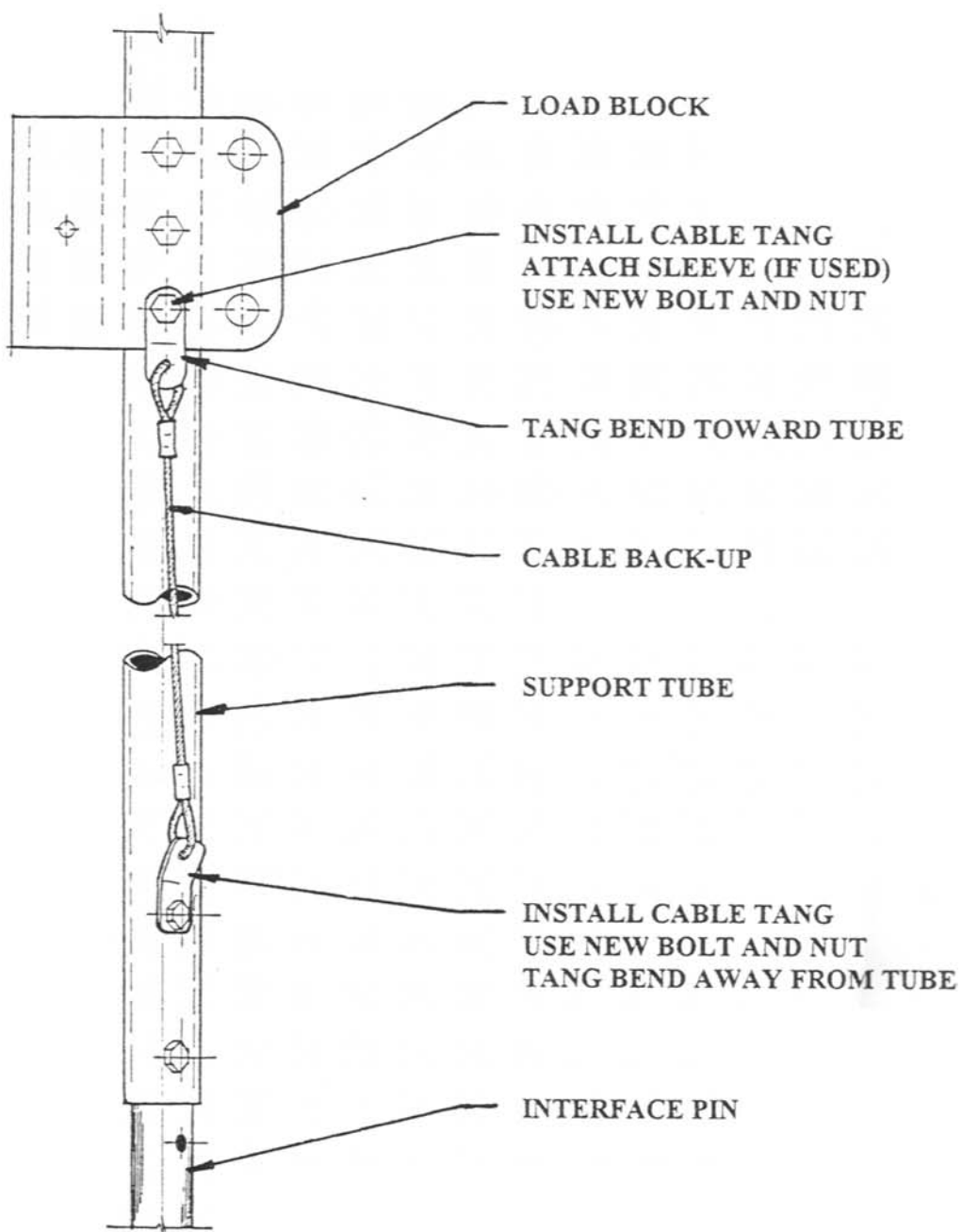


Figure 1 Cable Redundancy Installation

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