

AEROSTAR INTERNATIONAL, INC. August 10, 2011
SERVICE BULLETIN #138

- SUBJECT:** Suspected faulty fuel hose (PARKER)
- PROBLEM:** Leaks and reduced fuel flows were detected in recently manufactured fuel hoses that were not present or detected at the time of manufacture.
- DISCUSSION:** A faulty hose was then returned to Aerostar and subsequently to Parker for failure analysis. Examination revealed that there is a manufacturing defect that has caused or allowed the central tube in the hose to partially collapse into itself.
- APPLICABILITY:** This Service Bulletin applies to all replacement hoses that were produced between January 31, 2011 and March 17, 2011. 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. The information which is critical will be the "9-3Q10". This indicates that the hose was produced in September in the third quarter of 2010 by Parker. Subsequently, Aerostar manufactured these into aircraft hoses during January, February and March of 2011. Thus, these hoses will also have a stamp in an end fitting reading "1Q11 ". If a hose bears the above markings, 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 stamp on the end fitting is "1Q11". If so, continue to Step 2. If not, the hose is not affected by this Service bulletin.
- Step 2: Inspect the hose imprint to determine if the "9-3Q10" appears on the imprint. If so, continue to Step 3. If not, the hose is not affected by this Service bulletin. (Hoses not legibly marked that have an end fitting stamp per Step 1 must be considered as suspect by this Service Bulletin. Please contact Aerostar for confirmation as there are a very small number of hoses sold on Aerostar sales orders that are listed below.)
- Step 3: Immediately cease use of hose which fits the above criteria!
- Step 4: 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 preventative maintenance.* The balloon may then be returned to service.**
- COMPLIANCE:** This service bulletin must be complied with prior to any further flight.

Address: **Aerostar International, Inc.**
1814 "F" Ave.
Sioux Falls, SD 57104
Attn: Jeff Albert

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

****Note:** Suggested logbook entry for hose replacement:

"Hoses replaced per Aerostar Service Bulletin 138 as preventative maintenance and returned to service." MM/DD/YY First, Last Name, Pilot Certificate Number, Signature.

Aerostar Sales Order Numbers Affected:

204314
204297
204295
204291
204273
204248
204243
204221
204188
204184
204128
204123
204106
204105
204097
204065
204060
204023