

Airworthiness Alert

Recent Engine Thefts

Since May 2009 there have been 6 Rotax 912 engines stolen from LAA Aircraft, the most recent theft occurring just a few weeks ago in Strathaven, Scotland when a fire damaged Zenair 601 UL had its power plant removed.

Because this engine had been subjected to very high temperatures during a hangar fire it had been classified as 'unrepairable' and was awaiting destruction. LAA engineering is particularly concerned that this engine, or some of its components, may reach the second hand marketplace; hence this Airworthiness Alert.

Naturally, theft is a matter for the Her Majesty's Constabulary; we understand that the UK Police have formed a central database which will be used to track stolen engines and their components.

Rotax engines have just updated their European Stolen Engine Database and you can review this by checking out the Rotax Website: www.rotax-aircraft-engines.com go to the Documentation section and enter the word "stolen" in the title box.

A complete list of the serial numbers of the engines stolen from UK aircraft can be found [here](#). Naturally, if you are offered Rotax parts on the QT let the authorities know, if you have recently bought second-hand engine bits then check the serial numbers from the list.

We know that, whilst the engines involved in the Stathaven fire look good from the outside (and it's even possible that one or two of these engines may still run), the materials used in the engines will have been negatively affected by the extremely high temperatures involved.



This is the sight that confronted Laa'er Graham Wiley when he walked into his hangar. He had been looking forward to going flying all week. Picture: G. Wiley



The thieves that removed this engine knew exactly what they wanted and carefully removed it from the airframe. Picture: G. Wiley