



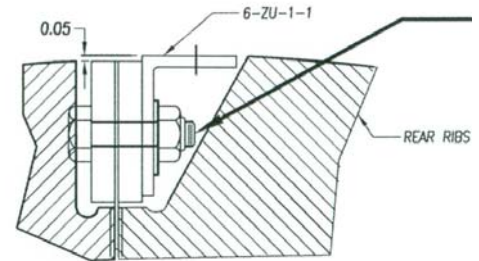
AIRWORTHINESS ALERT

ENGINEERING NEWS – UPDATE

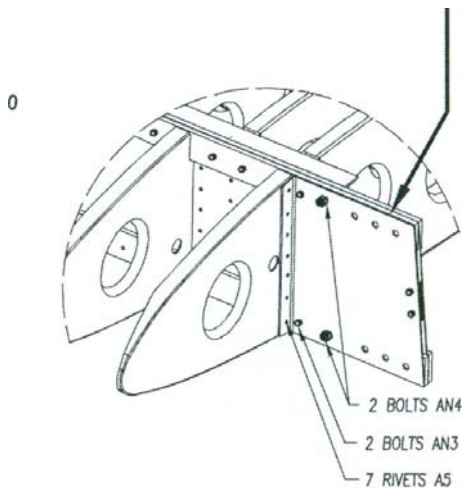
**SUBJECT: Zenair CH601XL Safety Alert – Directive,
(Structural changes to wing/Fuselage).**

RELEASE DATE: 7TH November 2009

The primary manufacturers of the Zenair range of aircraft, AMD Manufacturing and Design Ltd., has issued a Safety Alert – Directive which concerns specifically the CH601XL and the CH 650 aircraft models. There are no CH650 aircraft currently flying on LAA Permits in the UK but we have 15 CH601XL with current Permits and 17 aircraft presently under construction.



The AMD Alert requires significant modification to the design, is effective immediately, and affects all serial numbers. It should be noted that LAA Engineering has not been consulted in any way about these modifications and will need time to assess their suitability for incorporation onto aircraft under our control before further Engineering comment. LAA Engineering has written to XL owners with current Permits to Fly explaining that it is not required, indeed not permitted, to modify their aircraft in accordance with instructions issued by AMD at this time. Aircraft that have been modified in accordance with the requirements of LAA/MOD/162b/004 are considered airworthy.



Members will be aware that UK CH601XL aircraft were grounded by the issue of MPD No. 2008-006 which became effective in November 2008. These aircraft were grounded after the LAA became aware of manufacturers concerns about flutter. In conjunction with, and with the full agreement of, the aircraft's Designer, a series of modifications were incorporated into UK aircraft and, subject to the incorporation of these modifications, UK CH601XL's were ungrounded. The revision to the MPD permitting this became effective in August 2009. At the time of writing, of the 15 LAA aircraft originally grounded, 13 aircraft are now back in the air either on full Permits or Permit Flight Release (Flight Test Permit).

The LAA will be publishing further advice to its members about this matter in due course.

AMD Safety Alert – Directive can be downloaded [here](#). Q & A with Chris Heintz (the aircraft's Designer) can be downloaded [here](#). Drawings of AMD's proposed Mods can be downloaded [here](#).