

LAA/AWA/19/10  
13<sup>th</sup> March 2019

## Murphy Rebel

### Inspection of Tailplane Strut End Fittings



Fig. 1 A picture supplied by Murphy Aircraft showing the extent of the corrosion found in a recent inspection.



Fig. 2 This picture from the LAA library shows a failed 'original design' strut end fitting.

LAA Engineering has recently received a Service Bulletin (SB) from Murphy Aircraft Manufacturing Ltd. of Chilliwack, Canada, concerning a recent failure of a tailplane strut end fitting. As a response to this latest report of a failure in this part of the structure, LAA Engineering has up-issued the existing Airworthiness Information Leaflet (AIL) (LAA/MOD/232/004) to Issue 3.

The SB describes how this report of a failure led them to inspect a 'local' aircraft and quite serious corrosion was found in the strut end fitting and the strut itself on this aircraft. The SB also explains that Murphy Aircraft will no longer be supplying this 'original design' end fitting, having upgraded the strut itself to a more robust strut system; they strongly recommend upgrading to this later strut design. Since 2011, aircraft operating under an LAA administered Permit to Fly have been required to dismantle and inspect this assembly annually.

In the latest issue of the AIL (Issue 3), this annual inspection requirement remains in force for 'original design' struts but, by upgrading to the more robust strut, the annual strip inspection requirement is removed. LAA Engineering accept this upgraded strut as a factory option, so no formal application is required from owners should they wish to incorporate the upgrade onto their aircraft.

LAA/MOD/232/004 Issue 3 can be downloaded [HERE](#).

The Murphy Aircraft Ltd. Service Bulletin relating to this issue can be downloaded [HERE](#).



Fig. 3 This picture shows the 'original design' tailplane strut and end fitting – note the corrosion on the strut which should be considered unacceptable.



Fig. 4 The latest strut design – note that the end fitting is bolted rather than riveted in place.