

USING AN LAA APPROVED STANDARD MOD

1. Introduction

The concept of a 'Standard Modification' allows the benefits derived from approving new modifications to be more readily extended to other owners of similar aircraft.

A list of Standard modifications is shown on the LAA website (www.laa.uk.com). These modifications have been pre-approved by LAA Engineering as acceptable for applying to a particular aircraft type or group of types. These are made available in a "Mod Leaflet" format. Each leaflet details how the mod is to be accomplished and approved. In general, an application must be made to LAA Engineering, unless stated otherwise, and a charge might be applicable.

Although usually no design input from LAA Engineering is required for the modification itself, it is necessary to obtain authorisation from a LAA inspector before installing the modification to the aircraft. This ensures that the specific example aircraft has no build variations, repairs or pre-existing mods that could compromise the function or airworthiness of the new modification. It is important that this authorisation be obtained before any parts are purchased or work done to the aircraft to avoid any potentially costly rework.

3. The process of embodying a Standard Mod to your aircraft

The process for embodying an LAA approved standard modification is quite simple. The applicant simply selects a mod from the list on the website, embodies it, fills in the standard form LAA/MOD 1 and sends a copy to LAA Engineering. This records all of the relevant information, the initial inspector authorisation and final verification of the installed mod. There is also facility to include record of any flight tests or special inspections. The final section constitutes the Permit Maintenance Release and the completed form then becomes part of the official aircraft build or maintenance record.

There may be occasions where a flight test is required and in some instances the results will need to be approved by LAA Engineering. This will be highlighted in the mod leaflet and an application will need to be made for a PFRC (Permit Flight Release Certificate) for the aircraft once the mod has been installed. Upon receiving confirmation from LAA Engineering that the results are satisfactory, the inspector will be able to complete the full approval of the mod installation.

The closing activity for all Standard Mod Incorporations is to ensure that the aircraft log book (or build book) includes an appropriate record, including reference to the Mod number.

A flow chart of the process is shown on page 2

4. Charges for Incorporating Standard Mods

Certain Standard modifications attract charges depending on the amount of involvement required from the Engineering department. Each modification leaflet notes the fee chargeable.

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