

Continuing Airworthiness Notice – 79-001



Champion Oil Filters P/N CFO-100-1

05 July 2007

Issued by the Civil Aviation Authority of New Zealand in the interests of aviation safety. A Continuing Airworthiness Notice (CAN) is intended to alert, educate, and make recommendations to the aviation community. A CAN contains non-regulatory information and guidance that does not meet the criteria for an Airworthiness Directive (AD). The inspections and practices described in this CAN must still be carried out in accordance with the applicable NZCAR Parts 21, 43 and 91.

The contents of this notice are ADVISORY ONLY and are NOT MANDATORY.

CAN numbering is by ATA Chapter followed by a sequential number for the next CAN in that ATA Chapter.

Applicability:

All aircraft fitted with Champion Aerospace oil filters P/N CFO-100-1.

These oil filters are installed on, but not limited to Lycoming 320, 360 and 720 series engines.

Purpose:

This Continued Airworthiness Notice (CAN) alerts operators of aircraft fitted with Champion oil filters P/N CFO-100-1 of the difficulty of installing the flat rubber gaskets P/N CFO-203 supplied with oil filter kit P/N CFO-100-1.

Background:

This CAN is prompted by six reports of oil leaks occurring between the oil filter housing and the engine case during engine ground runs post oil change. Investigation revealed that the flat rubber gasket P/N CFO-203 had slipped inside the oil filter housing allowing oil to leak. The flat rubber gasket which is part of the latest oil filter kit P/N CFO-100-1 was found to fit loosely inside the cover plate. In comparison the gasket from the oil filter kit P/N CFO-100 was found to be a snug fit. The two gaskets were compared and placed one upon the other and the gasket from the P/N CFO-100 oil filter kit was found to be slightly larger in diameter. The situation was possibly made worse with the flat rubber gasket P/N CFO-203 from the oil filter kit P/N CFO-100-1 being coated with a very slippery silicon type grease.

The CAA is concerned that difficulty of installing these flat rubber gaskets P/N CFO-203 supplied with oil filter kit P/N CFO-100-1 may result in partially unseated gaskets on other aircraft. This could cause loss of engine oil and result in engine failure with the possibility of a forced landing.

Recommendation:

When fitting flat rubber gasket P/N CFO-203 supplied with oil filter kit P/N CFO-100-1 install the gasket dry. The gasket should be thoroughly cleaned to remove all traces of the silicon type grease coating before fitting. Also ensure the filter screw is tightened to the torque specified by Champion. Torque values vary depending on the P/N of filter housing.

Inspect engine for oil leaks at every pre-flight. Any oil leaks require further investigation.

Alternatively, modified the aircraft and install a Champion cartridge type CH48 series filter.

Enquiries:

All other enquires regarding this CAN should be made to:

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