

CYCLONE AX3 - SERVICE BULLETIN

BULLETIN No: AX3001 Issue 1

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SUBJECT: Fuel tank drain outlet

AFFECTED MODELS: Cyclone AX3

SERIAL No.s CA/C2083047 to 51 & CA/C2103070, 71, 73

COMPLIANCE: Before the next flight

SITUATION: After a normal flight the aircraft was refuelled and the owner was carrying out work from the right hand cockpit seat. The fuel drain pipe came away from the tank, releasing a full tank of fuel onto the hanger floor. The close fit of the rear enclosure onto this fuel connection may have helped it to work loose.

We have investigated and found that the fittings on the tank and at the drain are 10mm diameter, during manufacture 8mm fuel hose is stretched onto each fitting and silicone lubricant is used to aid the process. The small fuel line is providing a constant squeezing action trying to remove the pipe, and the lubricant added only makes matters worse. We have sourced a 10mm diameter hose that we shall test before issuing as a replacement. In the meantime, it is obviously important that steps are taken to ensure that this does not happen to other owners, the following procedure should be carried out before further flight.

1. Drain the fuel, reach behind the tank and pull at the hose to try to pull it off. If you cannot pull it off using a reasonably high force, then it is safe to assume it is ok for now.
2. If it comes away easily, then dry the end of the tank fitting thoroughly, remove all traces of silicone lubricant, examine and dry the inside and outside of the hose.
3. Add a spot of loctite 648 to the outside of the fitting and refit the hose. Fit the hose clip reasonably tight, but do not deform the drain outlet.
4. Leave in place for a couple of hours before giving it a good tug to ensure security, before refilling tank.
5. Enter the procedure in your airframe log and get your BMAA inspector to sign it off.

When we have carried out testing on the 10mm hose that has been sourced, a hose will be sent out to each owner.

W H Sherlock.
Director and Chief Executive.

Circulation: Cyclone AX3 owners. BMAA Chief Inspector. CAA x 2
Cyclone Airports Records.