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SN 153/00-035

Proper Maintenance and Genuine Spare Parts

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MU-2

SERVICE NEWS

MITSUBISHI HEAVY INDUSTRIES, LTD.
NAGOYA AEROSPACE SYSTEMS WORKS
10, OYE-CHO, MINATO-KU, NAGOYA, JAPAN

JCAB T.C. : No. 204
FAA T.C. : No. 153/00-035

DATE: May 28, 2021

SUBJECT: Proper Maintenance and Genuine Spare Parts

MODELS AFFECTED: All MU-2B Airplanes

The MU-2 was first certified by the FAA in 1964 and the last MU-2 aircraft was built more than 30 years ago. Mitsubishi Heavy Industries, Ltd. (MHI), however, maintains its commitment to support the aircraft through the Mitsubishi Heavy Industries America, Inc. Aircraft Product Support Division (MHIA-APD) and to provide product support programs to current MU-2 Owners and Operators. Although, over the years many MU-2's have been resold to different owners, MHIA-APD continues to maintain contact with many MU-2 Owners and Operators in an effort to understand their operations, maintenance and parts requirements. Like other classic vehicles, legacy airplanes require specialized and regular routine maintenance to assure they work properly and are in good condition for safe operation. With all MU-2 aircraft out of warranty, owners are fully responsible to assure proper maintenance and airworthiness of their aircraft. MHIA-APD is available to assist MU-2 Owners and Operators through its various product support programs. To support the inventory of genuine spare parts, MHIA-APD tracks parts trends and requests feedback from the field for the latest information to support the aircraft.

MHIA-APD recently received information about an MU-2 airplane that had been maintained exclusively by its owner and had not been serviced by a Mitsubishi MU-2 Authorized Service Centers for nearly ten years. The airplane was taken to an MU-2 Authorized Service Center and that inspection resulted in finding numerous airworthiness issues that could have led to serious problems and compromised the safe operation of the airplane. If the aircraft had been properly maintained and inspected regularly by one of the MU-2 Authorized Service Centers or by another reputable maintenance facility with high standards, the airworthiness of the aircraft would probably not have been compromised.

MHIA-APD has learned about some parts that were sold as genuine spare replacement parts that were in fact copies that fell into the classification of "counterfeit" or suspected "unapproved" parts. MHIA-APD has become aware of well-known popular resale websites advertising parts for sale that were improperly labeled



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such as a landing gear traveling nut assembly that was labeled as a flap drive assembly. It is important to note that electrical components sold through unknown sources may not be airworthy and could jeopardize the safety of your airplane. MU-2 Owners, Operators and maintenance facilities should pay special attention to limited age life parts and assemblies with internal O-rings and/or seals that are especially susceptible to deterioration due to age, drying out and/or becoming brittle and may be defective due to inadequate storage methods and shelf life control.

MU-2 Owners, Operators and maintenance facilities should always perform due diligence to verify the airworthy status of any part that will be installed into an MU-2 aircraft. FAA approved genuine MU-2 replacement parts purchased through Mitsubishi MU-2 Authorized Service Centers are rigorously inspected to certify that they meet the highest standards and meet FAA approved design specifications.

It is in the best interest of every pilot to maintain the airworthiness of every aircraft they fly. To maintain safety of flight, MHIA-APD strongly recommends that each MU-2 Owner and Operator pay close attention to the quality of maintenance to be performed, the parts to be installed, and any recommended maintenance actions on your aircraft. Further, the maintenance facility selected to service your aircraft can make an important difference in the airworthiness of your airplane and your confidence level when flying.