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Our ref 9/97/CtAw/236

07 May 1996

### LETTER TO OWNERS/OPERATORS NO 1530 LYCOMING O-235 SERIES ENGINES SUPERIOR AIR PARTS PISTONS IN LYCOMING O-235 ENGINES

It has come to our attention that some Lycoming engines fitted with Superior Air Parts pistons have been released to service with an extended overhaul time making reference to Superior Air Parts Service Bulletin recommendations. This is not correct.

The intent of this Letter To Operator is to explain the CAA position on the Lycoming O-235 engine life when Superior Air Parts are fitted. Superior Air Parts are approved by FAA under the Parts Manufacture Approval (PMA) system. As far as CAA is concerned, the engine manufacturer, as Type Certificate holder, has certain responsibilities in respect of continued airworthiness, including recommendations for overhaul life. It is these recommendations which are accepted by CAA, as Airworthiness Notice No 35 states. These PMA parts are regarded simply as acceptable replacement parts which qualify for the engine manufacturer's life recommendations and therefore for the extension under the provisions of Airworthiness Notice No 35.

Per Lycoming Service Letter L213A, the old piston P/N LW13623 qualifies for 2000 hour Time Between Overhaul (TBO) and the new piston P/N LW18729 qualifies for 2400 hour TBO. For the reason explained earlier, the Superior Air Parts pistons P/N SL13623 are a direct alternative to Lycoming pistons P/N LW13623 and, therefore, qualify for 2000 hour engine TBO. Similarly, the Superior Air Parts pistons P/N SL18729 are a direct alternative to Lycoming pistons P/N LW18729 and therefore qualify for 2400 engine hour TBO.

It is worth pointing out that Lycoming O-235 engines, fitted with Superior Air Parts pistons P/N SL13623, may continue in service for a further period of operation subject to the requirement of Airworthiness Notice No 35.

Enquiries regarding this LTO should be referred to Mr C Denis, Powerplant Department (Telephone No 01293 573641) at the above address.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'D J V Lewis', is written over a light-colored background.

**D J V LEWIS**  
Aircraft Maintenance Approvals