Safety Regulation Group
Applications and Certification Section

29 May 2003

Our Ref 9/97/CtAw/278

LETTER TO OWNERS/OPERATORS NO 2440
ROLLS-ROYCE AND PACKARD MERLIN SERIES ENGINES
INSPECTION AND OVERHAUL OF ROTAX MAGNETOS

Following the investigation into the fatal accident of a Spitfire aircraft in June 2001, the following overhaul and inspection recommendations applicable to Rolls-Royce and Packard Merlin engines equipped with Rotax magnetos, are promulgated to owners/operators and BCAR A8-20 approved organisations. It is recommended that this information be included in the Aircraft Maintenance Programme and the first Magneto inspection be performed on all engines within 50 operating hours of the date of this LTO or one year whichever is the sooner.

1. At periods not exceeding 12 months inspect the Rotax Magnetos. The inspection should including visual checks of the:

   (a) Setting, condition and function of the contact breaker points.
   (b) Condition of the insulator.
   (c) Correct lubrication
   (d) Anti-tracking paint condition
   (e) Other apparent faults and signs of deterioration

2. Copper inserts are to be used in the high-tension leads. The use of aluminium or any other metal is not permitted.

3. The magneto insulator, Part Number N72791, should be replaced at each magneto overhaul.

4. Magneto overhaul should be accomplished at half the 500-hour engine overhaul life, i.e. at every 250 hours.

Enquiries regarding this LTO should be referred to Mr C Denis, Propulsion Department – 1E (Telephone No 01293 573641) at the address shown.

R J TEW
Airworthiness Directive Co-ordinator

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