

Safety Regulation Group
Applications and Certification Section

8 September 2003

Our Ref 9/97/CtAw/171

LETTER TO OWNERS/OPERATORS NO 2463
PIPER PA-31-350 AEROPLANES
SEATING CONFIGURATION

During the process of Certificate of Airworthiness renewals, the CAA has identified that there may be a number of operators that are not aware which cabin interior options are approved for the Piper PA-31-350 (Chieftain) aircraft. FAA TCDS A20SO and the UK validation of that approval as depicted in AAN 12674 Issue 2, including the UK approved Flight Manual and UK Supplement, provide a detailed description of those seating configurations that are accepted for use in UK Transport Category PA-31-350 aeroplanes.

Attached to this letter is a copy of AAN 12674 Issue 3. Issue 3 has been raised to add the clarification that the "Executive Configuration" incorporates two aft facing passenger seats immediately behind the pilot and co-pilot seats. The Flight Manual definition of seating arrangements referred to in Section 5 of VB 1750 and Section 6 of LK 1208 specifies the following configuration:-

SEATING CONFIGURATION

- A. EXECUTIVE Configuration: - Maximum 8 Seats
SEATS 1 and 2 forward facing (Pilots seats)
SEATS 3 and 4 forward or aft facing
SEATS 5 thru 8 forward facing

- B. COMMUTER Configuration: - Maximum 10 Seats
All SEATS 1 thru 10 forward facing"

The number and layout of seats as specified in FAA TCDS, A20SO, is reproduced below:-

Total No. of Seats

2 seats at +95.0 (Pilots Seats) and

6 optional seats (2 at +132/137 (aft facing), 2 at +195.0, 1 at +229.0, 1 at +242.0)

or

8 optional seats (2 at +132.0, 2 at +163.5, 2 at +195.0, 1 at +229.0, 1 at +247.0)

Operators should take note of the attached information and ensure that the interior configuration of their a/c remain within the approval granted by the FAA and CAA. In particular, attention is drawn to page 4 of the AAN that clearly states that aircraft configured with the Executive interiors i.e. with the second row of seats facing aft, are only approved with 5/6 passenger seats.

Enquiries regarding this LTO should be referred to Mr Alistair Maxwell, Aircraft Certification Section, 2E (Telephone No 01293 573306) at the address shown.

Lynda Gillett (Mrs)

Assistant Airworthiness Directive Co-ordinator

Civil Aviation Authority

Floor 1E Aviation House Gatwick Airport South West Sussex England RH6 0YR

Phone +44 (0) 1293 573149 Fax +44 (0) 1293 573993