



Piper Aircraft, Inc.
2926 Piper Drive
Vero Beach, FL, U.S.A. 32960

SERVICE NO. 1161D BULLETIN

PIPER CONSIDERS COMPLIANCE MANDATORY

Date: February 5, 2024

(S) (M)

Service Bulletin (SB) 1161D supersedes SB 1161C in its entirety. Aircraft that were previously made compliant with SB 1161C are in compliance with SB1161D, until the next regularly scheduled maintenance event.

SUBJECT:

**RIB ASSEMBLY INSPECTION AND MODIFICATION
– FORWARD AND AFT WING RIBS, WS 49.25**

REASON FOR REVISION:

SB1161D corrects the affected serial numbers and formatting.

MODELS AFFECTED:

SERIAL NUMBERS AFFECTED:

Group A:

PA-28R-180 Arrow

28R-30000 thru 28R-31270,
28R-7130001 thru 28R-7130013

PA-28R-200 Arrow

28R-35001 thru 28R-35820,
28R-7135001 thru 28R-7135229

PA-28R-200 Arrow II

28R-7235001 thru 28R-7635545

PA-28R-201 Arrow III

28R-7737001 thru 28R-7837317, 2837001 thru 2837061,
2844001 thru 2844171

PA-28R-201T Turbo Arrow III

28R-7703001 thru 28R-7803373, 2803001 thru 2803012

PA-28RT-201 Arrow IV

28R-7918001 thru 28R-7918267,
28R-8018001 thru 28R-8218026

PA-28RT-201T Turbo Arrow IV

28R-7931001 thru 28R-8631005, 2831001 thru 2831038

PA-32R-300 Lance

32R-7680001 thru 32R-7880068

PA-32RT-300 Lance II

32R-7885001 thru 32R-7985106

PA-32RT-300T Turbo Lance II

32R-7787001, 32R-7887002 thru 32R-7987126

PA-32R-301 Saratoga SP

32R-8013001 thru 32R-8613006, 3213001 thru 3213028,
3213030 thru 3213041

PA-32R-301T Turbo Saratoga SP

32R-8029001 thru 32R-8629008, 3229001 thru 3229003

PA-32R-301 Saratoga II HP

3213029, 3213042 thru 3213103, 3246001 thru 3246244

PA-32R-301T Saratoga II TC

3257001 thru 3257407, 3257409 thru 3257493

PA-34-200 Seneca

34-7250001 thru 34-7450220

PA-34-200T Seneca II

34-7570001 thru 34-8170092

PA-34-220T Seneca III

34-8133001 thru 34-8633031, 3433001 thru 3433172,
3448001 thru 3448037

PA-34-220T Seneca IV

3448038 thru 3448079, 3447001 thru 3447029

PA-34-220T Seneca V

3449001 thru 3449508

PA-44-180 Seminole

44-7995001 thru 44-8195026, 4495001 thru 4495013,
4496001 thru 4496409

PA-44-180T Seminole

44-8107001 thru 44-8207020

ATA/JASC: 5712

(OVER)

MODELS AFFECTED (continued):**Group B:**

PA-28R-201 Arrow III

PA-32R-301T Saratoga II TC

PA-34-220T Seneca V

PA-44-180 Seminole

SERIAL NUMBERS AFFECTED (continued):

2844172 and up

3257494 and up

3449509 and up

4496410 and up

COMPLIANCE TIME:**Part I. Detailed Inspection****Group A:**

Initial compliance with Part I is to coincide with the next regularly scheduled maintenance event, but not to exceed the next 50 hours time in service. After the initial inspection, recurring inspections in compliance with Part I shall be performed at 500-hour intervals.

Performing the structural modifications described in the repair kit instructions will eliminate the repetitive detailed inspection requirements of this service bulletin, if the kit instructions are marked as **drawing number (Dwg. No.) 88373, revision "J"** (or later).

At owner/operator discretion, installation of Kit P/N 767-397 or 767-398, as applicable, with kit instructions marked Dwg No. 88373, revision J (or later), may be accomplished prior to the discovery of a crack, in order to eliminate the recurring inspection requirements described in part 1 of this service bulletin.

NOTE: Installation of Kit P/N 767-397 or 767-398, as applicable, with kit instructions marked **Dwg. No. 88373, revision prior to "J," does not relieve the recurring inspection** requirements.

Group B:

Compliance is at the discretion of the owner/operator, upon discovery of cracks or other damage in the forward or aft wing rib assemblies at wing station 49.25.

Part II. Standard Inspection**Groups A & B:**

Compliance with Part II is to coincide with the existing 100 hour maintenance requirements

APPROVAL:

The engineering aspects of this service document have been shown to comply with the applicable Federal Aviation Regulations and are FAA approved.

PURPOSE:**Group A:**

Under certain conditions, the rib assemblies on the forward and aft side of the main wing spar at wing station (WS) 49.25 may develop a crack, located vertically along the bend radius of the flange common to the main wing spar and the side brace attach fitting.

A crack in the wing rib assembly as described, if not repaired, could compromise the ability of the rib to support the spar web and carry torsional shear loads, thereby reducing the shear buckling capability of the spar web and torsional strength of the wing.

This service bulletin provides a schedule for inspection to detect the presence of cracks, and announces the availability of service kits, which include the parts and instructions to repair the aft rib assembly, if a crack is discovered. It also announces the availability of replacement rib assemblies that, where installed, will relieve the recurring inspections described in Part I of this service bulletin

Group B:

The detailed inspection requirements applicable to airplanes in Group A do not apply to airplanes in Group B. However, should damage occur to airplanes in Group B, due to a hard landing or some other cause, this service bulletin announces the availability of a repair kit, provided that the damage is within the limits specified in the Instructions section of this service bulletin.

INSTRUCTIONS:

WARNING: FLIGHT WITH KNOWN CRACKS IN THE AIRCRAFT STRUCTURE IS NOT ALLOWED. AN AIRPLANE WITH A CRACK IN STRUCTURE MAY NO LONGER MEET ITS TYPE DESIGN AND MAY NO LONGER POSSESS ITS TYPE DESIGN STRENGTH. ANY CRACKS DISCOVERED IN THE AIRCRAFT STRUCTURE MUST BE REPAIRED PRIOR TO THE NEXT FLIGHT.

Part I. Detailed Inspection

For the initial 50 hour inspection, and at each 500 hour interval thereafter:

NOTE: Perform the following instructions per the appropriate service/maintenance manual, when required.

1. Place the aircraft on jacks, and perform the following disassembly and inspection on the LH and RH wings.
2. Remove the main landing gear side brace by removing the five bolts that fasten it to the wing structure. Retain the hardware for reassembly.
3. Inspect the aft rib assembly (LH wing and RH wing) for evidence of cracks in the bend radius of the flange common to the main spar web (as shown in Figure 1), using dye penetrant inspection techniques. Use guidance from FAA Advisory Circular AC43.13-1B.
 - If a **crack is detected**, identify the path of propagation. Determine if trimming will remove all the material affected by the crack, as illustrated in Figure 1.
 - If so, then install the appropriate kit (see Material Required section of this service bulletin). Kit installation will eliminate the recurring inspection requirements mandated by Part I of this service bulletin.
 - If not, then replacement of the aft rib assembly is mandated.
 - If a replacement Rib Assembly – Aft Wing – WS 49.25, P/N 78475-000 through 78475-009, is installed, this **does not relieve the recurring inspection requirements** of this service bulletin. However, the **recurring inspections as described in Part I are relieved** if the applicable kit P/N 767-397 or 767-398 is also installed, and if the kit instructions are marked drawing number 88373, revision J (or later).
 - If a replacement Rib Assembly – Aft Wing – WS 49.25, P/N 78475-010 or higher, as defined in Table 1, is installed, this **relieves the recurring inspection requirements** described in Part I of this service bulletin. (Installation of either kit P/N 767-397 or 767-398 is not required, in this case.)
 - If a **crack is not detected**, then the recurring inspection requirements mandated by Part I of this service bulletin can be eliminated by installing the appropriate kit (see the Material Required section of this service bulletin).

NOTE: Prior to installing a kit, verify that the instructions are marked Dwg No. 88373, revision J (or later).

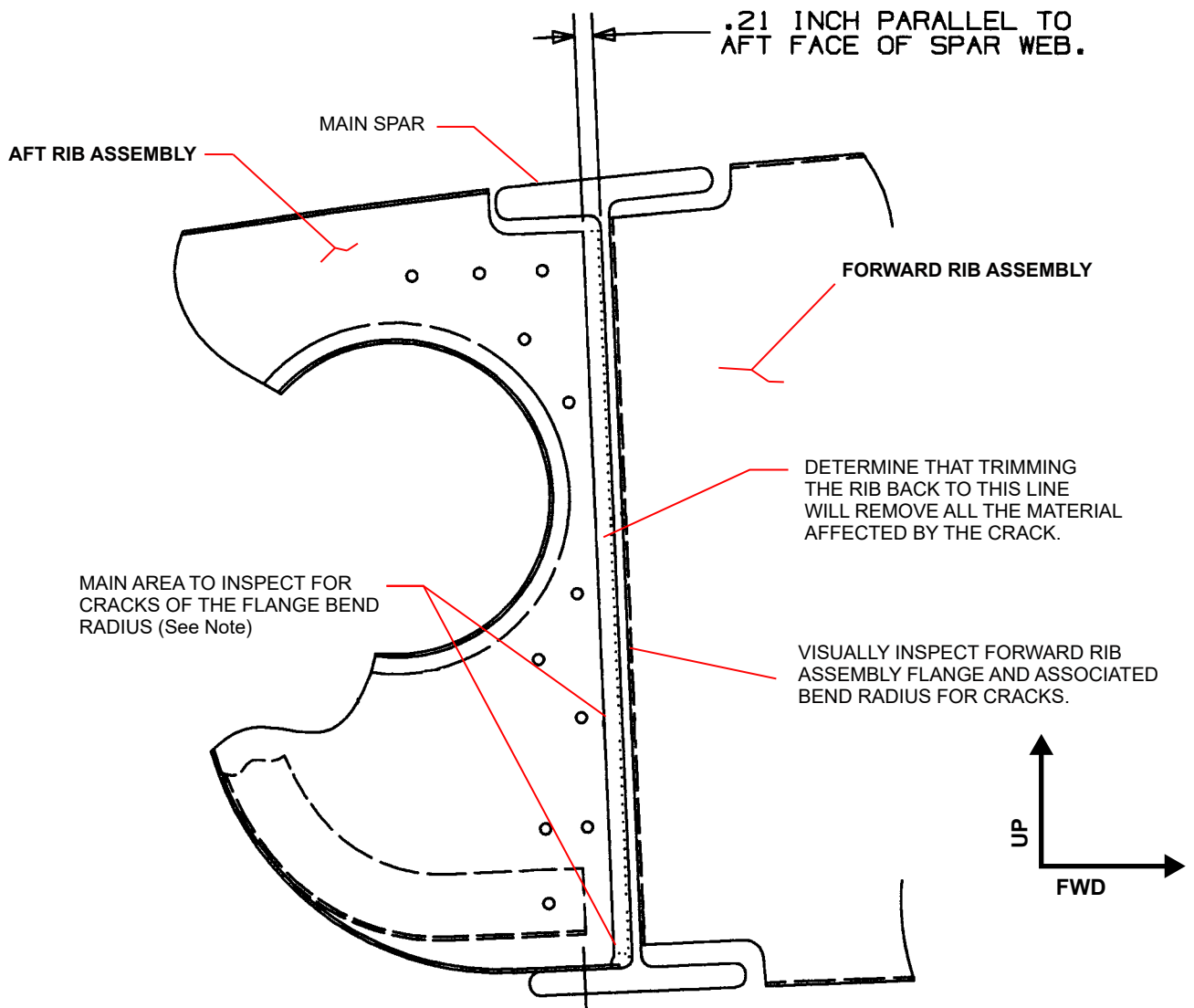
4. Reassemble the main landing gear side brace, using existing hardware, after initial inspection and after 500 hour inspections or when disassembly was required.
5. Verify proper functioning of the landing gear.
6. Remove the airplane from jacks.
7. Make a logbook entry documenting compliance with Part I of this service bulletin, noting the accomplishment of the recurring inspection, or the structural modification of the LH and/or RH wing per kit instructions, as applicable.

TABLE 1	
REPLACEMENT RIB ASSEMBLY	
IF THE ORIGINAL PART NUMBER IS:	THEN THE SERVICE PART NUMBER IS:
78475-000	78475-014
78475-001	78475-015
78475-002	78475-016
78475-003	78475-017
78475-004	78475-018
78475-005	78475-019
78475-006	78475-012
78475-007	78475-013
78475-008	78475-010
78475-009	78475-011

NOTE: Refer to the appropriate Piper Airplane Parts Catalog to determine the applicable original part number.

Part II. Standard Inspection

1. As part of the normal 100 hour recurring maintenance requirements:
 Inspect the forward and aft rib assemblies (LH and RH) for evidence of cracks at the location shown in Figure 1, except the inspection shall be limited to a visual examination of observable portions of the flange bend radii. Removal of the main landing gear side brace is not required at the 100 hour inspection interval.
 If a crack is detected in the aft rib, proceed to Part I, Detailed Inspection.
 If a crack is detected in the forward rib, repair or replacement of the forward rib assembly is mandated. Piper does not offer a standard for the forward rib assembly.
NOTE: Prior to visual inspection, wipe surfaces clean using a soft cloth dampened with isopropyl alcohol, mineral spirits, naphtha, or other suitable cleaning agent.
NOTE: This visual inspection shall be accomplished using a 10X magnifier, a mirror and a suitable light source or other equipment capable of providing equal or better resolution.
2. Make a logbook entry documenting compliance with Part II of this service bulletin.



NOTE: Applicable to the initial 50 hour inspection and 500 hour recurring inspection. Not applicable to the recurring 100 hour inspection.

LOOKING OUTBOARD AT LEFT WING, WS 49.25
(RIGHT WING OPPOSITE)

Figure 1
Determine if trimming will remove all material affected by cracks or damage in the aft rib assembly

- MATERIAL REQUIRED:** Per aircraft, on condition (refer to Part I, Step 3):
- Up to two (2) each, Rib Assembly – Aft Wing – WS 49.25, P/N 78475-010 or higher per Table 1.
 - Up to one (1) each:
 - Kit P/N 767-397, Kit – Rib Repair, LH
 - Kit P/N 767-398, Kit – Rib Repair, RH

AVAILABILITY OF PARTS: Your Piper Approved Service Center
Find your local service center at <https://www.piper.com/>

EFFECTIVITY DATE: This service bulletin is effective on February 19, 2024.

SUMMARY: Applicable factory participation is limited to new aircraft in warranty at the time of compliance. Factory participation will remain in effect for a period of time not to exceed 180 days from the date of this service bulletin.

Please contact your Piper Approved Service Center to make arrangements for compliance with this service bulletin in accordance with the compliance time indicated.

NOTE: Please notify the factory of any address/ownership corrections. Changes should include aircraft model, serial number, and current owner's name and address.

Corrections and/or changes should be directed to:

PIPER AIRCRAFT, INC.
Att'n: Customer Service
2926 Piper Drive
Vero Beach, FL 32960

or:

CustomerService@piper.com

Please include in subject line: "Aircraft ownership update"