



AIRWORTHINESS NOTICE

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Bogus Spare Parts

1. The Federal Aviation Agency of the United States of America has long been concerned with “bogus” parts, a number of which has been found in use by aircraft owners and/ or operators. Superficially many of these parts are identical with the genuine parts which they replace.
2. In order to give wide publicity to this serious problem, the Flight Safety Foundation of America some years ago prepared and published a comprehensive illustrated booklet bearing the title of “The problem of Bogus Parts. It also included the following definition of bogus parts:-

” Parts which are not airworthy, parts the source and identity of which have long been lost, Parts of unknown material or fabricated by processes at variance with industry and Government specification”.
3. Recent experiences in UK also indicate that this problem is not confined to the United States. The two examples which follow are typical and both were experienced by the same purchaser:-
 - 3.1 A quantity of NAS bolts were purchased from a stockiest in the United States. These were to be fitted to an aircraft in positions where the bolts were subject to a fatigue life limitation. Whilst being tightened to the required torque loading the head came off one of these bolts. Investigation revealed an old fatigue crack extending over approximately 80% of the cross sectional area of the shank. Other bolts from the same batch had similar cracks all were second hand but had been replaced before delivery.
 - 3.2 At a later date a further batch of NAS bolts ordered from a stockiest in the U.K. The order specified that the bolts should have rolled threads. When delivered the bolts had the characteristic ‘R’ on the heads, but closer inspection revealed that the threads were cut and were very rough. Following investigation revealed that the supplier had attempted to meet the requirements of the order by having longer bolts rethreaded, the shank then being cut back to the right length.
4. The above exceptional examples serve to show that it will pay to be careful when buying spares of foreign origin. Such items should be purchased either direct from the manufacturer, or from a source known from the purchaser’s own experience to be reputable.
5. **CANCELLATION:- This issue cancels all previous issues of notice No. 14 which should be destroyed.**


For/ Director General
Civil Aviation Authority