



THE ENSTROM HELICOPTER CORPORATION

2209 22nd STREET, MENOMINEE, MICHIGAN 49858

SERVICE INFORMATION LETTER

SERVICE INFORMATION LETTER NO. 0173

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DATE: September 2, 2010

1. SUBJECT: Pylon Structure Inspection for Agricultural and External Load Aircraft
2. MODEL: F-28C, 280C, F-28F, 280F, and 280FX Helicopters
3. EFFECTIVITY: Helicopters Equipped with Ag Spray Kit or Operating with External Loads
4. BACKGROUND:

Two instances of broken pylon tubes have been found during field inspections of aircraft used for agricultural operations. The breaks were similar in both instances and resulted from a crack starting on the underside of the pylon tube at the aft, left transmission mount (ref. Figure 1). These cracks are attributed to the conditions seen in agricultural operations as no record of this issue has occurred in other aircraft. Because of the similarities in operating spectrums, this concern also exists in aircraft used for external load operations. This Service Information Letter (SIL) increases the inspection frequency of the pylon structure for aircraft used in agricultural operations and/or external load operations.

5. COMPLIANCE:

In order to ensure safe operation in the field, operators of aircraft used for agricultural and/or external load operations should inspect the pylon structure as described below.

- 5.1 In addition to the regular 100-hour/annual inspections, perform the following inspection every 10 hours time in service if the aircraft has been used for agricultural or external load operations during that time period
- 5.2 Remove the access panel below the left fuel tank.
- 5.3 Using a light and mirror, inspect the pylon tubes at the aft, left transmission mount shown in Figure 2. Pay particular attention to the area noted. In both cases, the cracks started at the bottom of the tube.

- 5.4 Open the left engine door and inspect the cluster at the aft, left lower pylon corner shown in Figure 2.
- 5.5 Replace the access panel.
6. SPECIAL TOOLS:
None
7. MAN-HOURS:
0.25 Man-hours
8. WARRANTY:
Not applicable
9. WEIGHT CHANGE:
None
10. LOG BOOK ENTRY:
As required for maintenance actions.
11. REPETITIVE ACTION:
The pylon inspection should be repeated every 10 hours time in service if the aircraft has been used for agricultural or external load operations during that time period

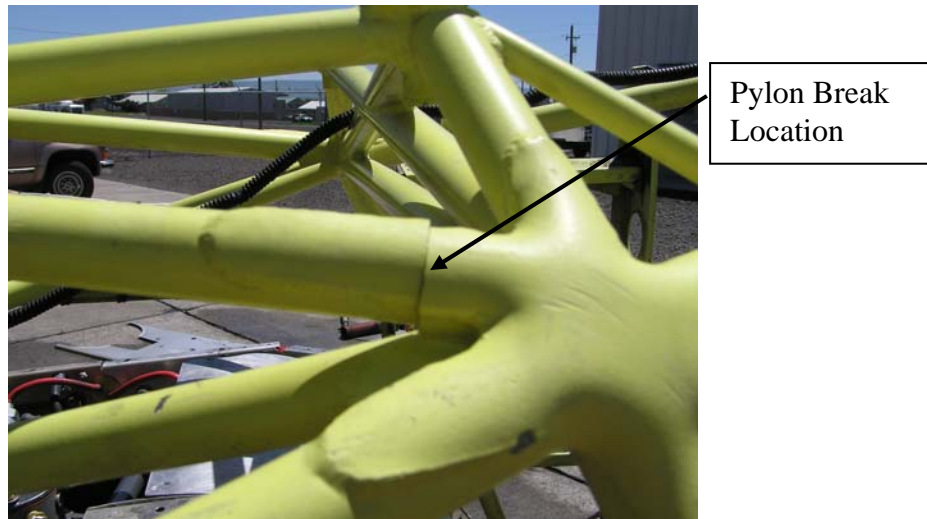


Figure 1. Pylon Structure

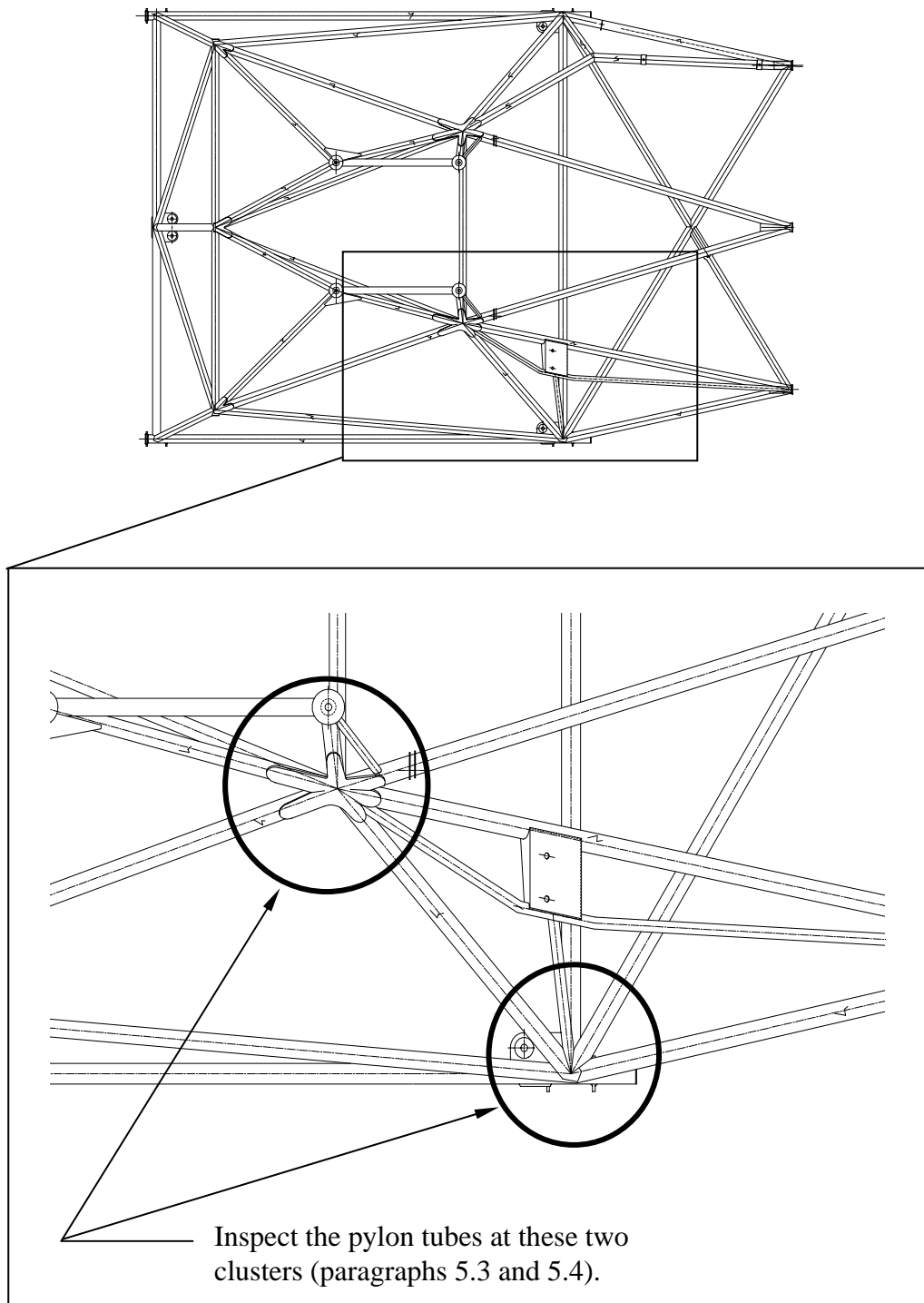


Figure 2. Pylon Structure Inspection Areas – View Looking Down