



SERVICE LETTER

No. 687

Piper Aircraft Corporation

Lock Haven, Pennsylvania, U.S.A.

June 19, 1974 S

Subject:

Stabilator Modification

Models Affected:

PA-24-250 Comanche
PA-24-260 Comanche

Serial Numbers Affected:

24-1, 24-103 to 24-3641 incl., 24-3643 to 24-3687 incl.
24-3642, 24-4000 to 24-5047 incl.

Compliance Time:

At owner's discretion. It is suggested that this modification be accomplished at a normal periodic (100-hour, annual, etc.) inspection interval to minimize installation labor cost and aircraft down time.

Purpose:

In recent months, comprehensive studies using the latest computer techniques have been conducted relative to the vibratory characteristics of the PA-24-250 and the PA-24-260 series Comanche tail surfaces. The studies were undertaken to investigate and confirm methods to guard against undesirable vibration characteristics and to provide means of returning the V_{ne} airspeed to its original configuration of 227 mph C.A.S. During these studies, FAA Airworthiness Directive 72-22-5 and Piper Service Bulletins No. 362 and 362A were published to establish V_{ne} (i.e., Never Exceed) airspeed restrictions.

This service release announces the availability of material and instructions to modify the stabilator on the above referenced aircraft by (1) installing stabilator tip weights, (2) installing stabilator hinge reinforcements and (3) installing stabilator tab hinge reinforcements. This modification, when installed in conjunction with or subsequent to the Rudder Balance Weight Installation (announced by Piper Service Bulletin No. 362A, dated October 6, 1972), will permit PA-24-250 and PA-24-260 model Comanches to be returned to the original V_{ne} airspeed of 227 mph C.A.S.

NOTE: This installation does not apply to the PA-24-180 models, as the original V_{ne} airspeed (for this model) was reinstated by installation of the rudder balance weights.

Instructions:

Contained in Stabilator Modification Kit, Piper Part No. 760 747.

Material Required:

One (1) each per aircraft Stabilator Modification Kit, Piper Part No. 760 747, @ suggested unit list price \$123.00C.

Availability of Parts:

Your Piper Field Service Facility.

Effectivity Date:

This service release is effective upon receipt.

Summary:

This service release announces the means by which the V_{ne} (Never Exceed) airspeed -- restricted by Piper/FAA releases described above -- may be reinstated to its 227 mph C.A.S. configuration. Please contact your Piper Field Service Facility for material availability and compliance information.

CAUTION: In order to reinstate original V_{ne} airspeed, this installation must be accomplished in conjunction with or subsequent to the rudder balance weight installation announced by Piper Service Bulletin No. 362A, dated October 6, 1972.