

All Vans RV-3, 4, 6/6A, 7/7A, 8/8A Aircraft Operating under an LAA Permit to Fly

Inspection for Cracks in Elevator Fwd. Spar.

LAA Engineering have recently received notification that Vans Aircraft have published a Service Bulletin (SB 14-02-05) requiring 'before next flight' inspections of the elevators for cracking in the forward spar. Cracks have been reported in the elevator spar web near the elevator attachment points.

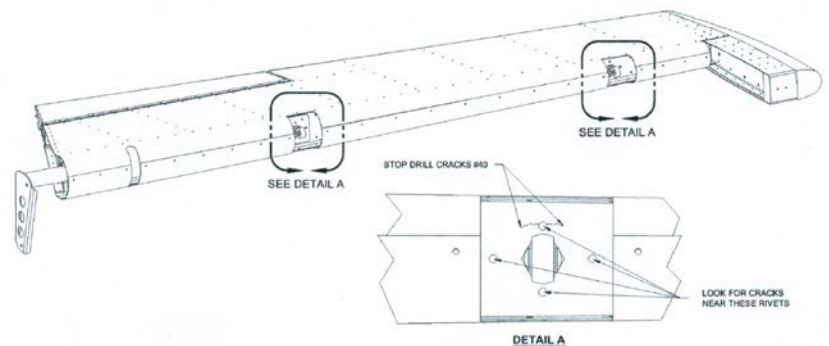


Fig 1. Vans Elevator showing area of concern

At the time of writing this ALERT no further information has been made available to the LAA regarding the aetiology of this structural failure.

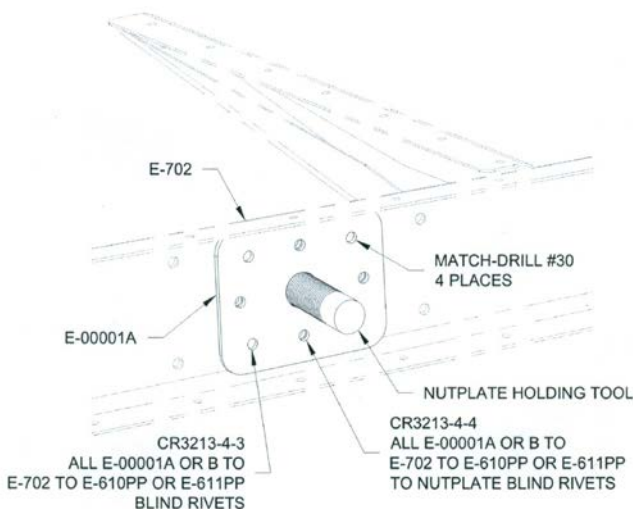


Fig 2. Doubler plate shown before riveting
(Note: Nutplate Holding tool is manufactured using a 3/8 x 24 Cap Head Bolt/Screw.)

This SB aims to achieve two primary objectives; the first being an inspection of the elevator forward spar in the area of the elevator's attachment. The LAA Highly Recommends that this check is carried out before next flight and, if a crack is found, the aircraft not flown and LAA Engineering is informed as soon as practically possible.

The second aim is to provide strengthening to this area; this has been done by adding a doubler plate to the area surrounding the attachment fitting. This design change is currently under investigation and should not be installed until it has been authorised by LAA Engineering.

Vans Service Bulletin 14-02-05 can be found [HERE](#).