

LAA/AWA/21/05  
5<sup>th</sup> February 2021

## Hoffmann HO-V 72 Propellers Hub Inspection

### EASA Emergency Airworthiness Directive 2020-0226-E

Cracks have been discovered in different places on two HO-V 72 propeller hubs; one hub was nearing the end of its operational life (30 years from manufacture), the other occurred on a relatively new hub. Both the affected hubs were fitted to Slingsby T67 'Firefly' aircraft. One crack was discovered during a routine inspection, the other during a detailed inspection following a report of abnormal vibration.

Following these failures, Hoffmann Propeller GmbH & Co. Kg, the original manufacturer of the propeller, issued a Service Bulletin (SB E53 Rev. B) requiring a 'before next flight' visual inspection of the propeller hub of affected types.

An LAA fleet inspection has been carried out and no further reports of cracking have been received. When no cracks are found, the aircraft is permitted to fly for a further 20 hours, after which a detailed NDT inspection of the hub is required.

Following the publication of the manufacturer's SB, EASA have issued an Emergency Airworthiness Directive (2020-0226-E) mandating the inspection requirements listed within the SB. In addition to the specific inspection requirements, the E-AD mandates the manufacturer's recommended hub life of 30 years from the date manufacture.

LAA Engineering have issued an Airworthiness Information Leaflet (AIL) (LAA/MOD/HOF/001 Issue 1) mandating the requirements of the EASA E-AD on all LAA aircraft using this propeller type.

LAA/MOD/HOFF/001 Issue 1 may be downloaded [HERE](#).

The EASA E-AD (2020-0226-E) relating to this issue may be downloaded [HERE](#).

Hoffmann SB E53 Rev. B may be downloaded [HERE](#).

This subject was discussed in the December 2020 Safety Spot which can be downloaded [HERE](#).



This circumferential hub crack created a noticeable in-flight vibration which led the pilot to abandon the flight.



The EASA E-AD mandates a 30 year life for this hub model, the date of manufacture is stamped clearly on the hub.