

SOARING SAFETY FOUNDATION

SAFETY ADVISORY 00-2

Dated 24 July 2000

TO: Owners / Operators of PZL-Bielsko SZD-50-3 PUCHACZ Gliders

SUBJECT: Issuance of PZL-Bielsko Mandatory Bulletin

- 1.** The Soaring Safety Foundation has received information regarding the issuance of two separate bulletins, a Mandatory Bulletin, distributed by PZL-Bielsko and one being distributed by the Polish Civil Aviation Authority, relating to cracks discovered in the front bracket console mounted on the front fuselage bulkhead of the SZD-50-3 Puchacz glider. This bulkhead is the point at which the wings attach to the fuselage and the bulletins require inspection of both sides of the bulkhead. The Mandatory Bulletin calls for the grounding of any Puchacz glider in which cracks longer than 3mm are discovered.
- 2.** It is our understanding that this problem was discovered as a result of a discrepancy associated with a glider of this type in Germany. This led to an inspection of other PUCHACZ gliders, some of which exhibited similar problems. Some of the gliders identified as having these cracks had been used extensively in aerobatic flights.
- 3.** It is important to note that the Federal Aviation Administration has not yet issued an Airworthiness Directive relating to this problem.
- 4.** The intent of this Safety Advisory is to inform owners / operators of PUCHACZ gliders of the safety issues related to this problem and the impact this Mandatory Bulletin may ultimately have on the operation of this aircraft.
- 5.** The Soaring Safety Foundation will continue to monitor this situation and report the issuance of any Airworthiness Directive or other inspection requirements distributed by the Federal Aviation Administration. The Soaring Safety Foundation will post additional information on the SSF Web Page as it becomes available.