

VAN'S AIRCRAFT, INC.

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SAFETY ALERT RV-12 (3-17-11)

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Date Released: March 17, 2011

Date Effective: March 17, 2011

Subject: WD-1215-L-PC and WD-1215-R-PC incomplete welds

Affected Models: RV-12 only (Finish Kit or later)

Required Action: Inspect WD-1215-L&R, replace if affected.

Time of Compliance: Before further flight

Synopsis:

Two reports from the field have been received of incomplete welds on WD-1215 Flaperon Torque Arms.

Method of Compliance:

(Reference: RV-12 Drawing 32-06 and 32-10)

Inspect WD-1215-L-PC and WD-1215-R-PC Flaperon Torque Arms for complete welds as follows:

1. If Torque Arms are not installed, visually inspect them for complete welds in the area indicated in the photo below.
2. If Torque Arms are installed on the aircraft and the fuel tank is not installed, remove the F-1206E Baggage Cover and inspect the Torque Arms for complete welds in the area indicated in the photo below.
3. If Torque Arms are installed and the fuel tank is installed, accomplish the inspection by either of the following methods:
 - a. Remove the fuel tank and inspect the Torque Arms as described in method #2 above or...

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- b. Left side Torque Arm... With the fuel tank in place, remove the accessible screws in the F-1206E Baggage Cover. Lift the cover enough to get your hand under the cover and determine if the welds are complete by running your finger along the joint. To familiarize yourself with the 'feel' of this type of weld joint, similar welds can be easily accessed on the exposed portions of the left and right Step assemblies.

Right side Torque Arm... Visual and/or tactile inspection can be accomplished through the aft-most inspection cover on the belly. For those with smaller hands, the welds on the right side Torque Arm can be inspected by tactile inspection as in 'b' above. A flashlight and inspection mirror can also be used to visually inspect the Torque Arm welds by positioning the right flaperon in the full down position. Inspecting the top weld will require that the mirror be inserted through the inspection hole and positioned just aft and above the Torque Arm. Inspection of the lower weld will require that the mirror be positioned just inside the inspection cover so that the reflection viewed is almost parallel to the belly skin looking aft. In this position, the top edge of the weld will be visible as an imperfect edge (not a straight, smooth edge).

Note: If the presence of complete welds can not be confirmed using the inspection techniques described in '3,b' above, the Torque Arms should be inspected visually by removing the Fuel Tank and Baggage Cover as described in '3,a' above.

Replacement and/or Modification Procedures:

If a WD-1215 is found with an incomplete weld, contact Van's Aircraft for a replacement component.

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