

Parts Involved in an Accident . . . can they be used again?



Definitions

For a part to be *airworthy* it must conform to its type design, and be in a condition for safe operation.

Type Design, the drawings, plans, methods and processes to which the airplane, product or part was originally manufactured.

Aircraft Accident, occurrence causing death, serious injury, or substantial damage to the aircraft. By substantial damage we mean damage which adversely affects structural strength, performance or flight characteristics of the aircraft (which would normally require major repair or replacement).

All parts involved in an accident must have some type and / or work accomplished before they can be approved for return to service for the following reasons . . .

Parts may have been subject to excessive heat, thereby effecting their original strength or dimensions. Parts involved in a fire are almost always rendered unserviceable.

Parts exposed to foreign or corrosive liquids even for short periods of time may be adversely effected.

Parts subjected to sudden stops like in a crash may be subject to deformities that are not visible to external inspections.

Parts involved in accidents that are repaired and returned to service, must be . . .

inspected by qualified persons, meet type design and airworthiness standards.

When there is no guidance from the manufacturer concerning service on parts that have been involved in an accident contact the manufacturer representative, MIDO, FSDO or ACO.

When questioning type design criteria one good indicator that the part in question meets type design is documentation that indicates the part was installed on a U.S. Type Certificated Aircraft.

All parts involved in an accident should be subjected to intense scrutiny by qualified personnel. Use data that is current and applicable to the particular situation. Always make choices that are biased towards safety.

Remember when making decisions about using parts involved in an accident always err on the side of safety.