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## **INDUSTRY COMMUNIQUE**

**Friday, 25 APRIL 2008**

### **ROTAX ENGINE TIME BETWEEN OVERHAUL EXTENSIONS**

The Commissioner approved an extension to the Time Between Overhaul (TBO) requirement on Rotax engines in order to provide relief for Aircraft owners operating Rotax Two-stroke engines. The approval comes into effect on 1 May 2008 and will have an impact on a large percentage of the current Non-Type Certificated aircraft fleet, allowing engines to undergo the general overhaul later than recommended.

The Aero Club of South Africa, acting on behalf of its members brought the matter to the attention of the Commissioner in the form of an exemption application, making a case for relief from the Rotax requirements.

The SACAA, in discharging its aviation regulatory mandate, relies on the original manufacturer recommendations to provide guidelines for continued airworthiness of any aircraft or component. These guidelines are then reviewed on a continued basis as more data and statistics become available. Operational data obtained by the SACAA in the Rotax case demonstrated that these engines and in particular the crankshafts may last longer than what the manufacturer originally intended. Further in-depth studies conducted by the SACAA included a 10 year accident records review, consultation with South African operators, and comparing international best practices. The SACAA is confident to report that no abnormal crankshaft failures statistics were found during these investigations.

Mr Obert Chakarisa, General Manager for Aircraft Safety at the SACAA says: "The role of the aviation regulation is to ensure that its oversight activity does not only focus on regulation promulgation and enforcement, but also enhance aviation growth and development as a component of the country's economic development". It should also be

added that the SACAA does not seek to over-regulate this sector of the industry, which in essence, represents grassroots and entry level category in the aviation industry.

All owners and operators are however advised to adhere to recommended practices of the manufacturer at all times, and in case of this exemption approval, refer to the Alternate Maintenance Schedule as provided. It should also be noted that only certain Approved Persons and Representatives of Rotax South Africa shall be allowed to perform the maintenance as required by this approval.

Mr Chakarisa says that the Recreational section of the industry is important to the SACAA and, like other aviation operations, are expected to constantly conform to all the applicable regulations and standards. He says all aviation users are expected to continue working with the SACAA to achieve aviation safety, and the Authority will, in turn, offer its support and assistance.

Please refer to Aeronautical Information Circular dealing with this approval until such time as to allow for the necessary regulatory changes to be incorporated.

For further information, please feel free to contact:

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