

SERVICE LETTER

No. 617B

"FAA DOA SO-1 Approved"

August 30, 1973 S/M

(Supersedes and voids Piper Service Letter No. 617A, dated February 9, 1973)

Reason for Revision:

Piper Service Letter No. 617A, dated February 9, 1973 authorized field replacement of "original" Series 1 or Series 2 Piper Automatic Locator Transmitters by a further improved "third generation" unit (identified as Series 3 or Series 21, which are interchangeable). In the recent past, the Automatic Locator Transmitter manufacturer, in a continuing product advancement effort, has changed the identification of the latest configuration transmitter unit. These latest configuration units have recently been made available on production aircraft and through the Customer Service Sales Division for field replacements. They are identified as follows: (1) a yellow colored case (previous units were red) and (2) manufacturer's part number of 627674 Series 1, located on identification plate (previous units contained manufacturer's part number 627484, Series 1, 2, 3 or 21).

The primary purpose of this service release is to advise owners and operators of affected aircraft and our field agencies that the "new" Series 1 transmitters, identified above, are authorized for field replacement according to the provisions of Piper Service Letter No. 617A and FAA Airworthiness Directive 73-7-2. In other words, compliance with this Service Letter or Service Letter No. 617A and FAA Airworthiness Directive 73-7-2 has been completed if your aircraft contains either a (manufacturer's part number 627484) Series 3, Series 21 or (manufacturer's part number 627674) "new" Series 1.

The remainder of this Service Letter is similar in the context to Piper Service Letter No. 617A, dated February 9, 1973; changes have been made in various places throughout the body of this letter relative to the applicability of the "new" Series 1 units.

Aircraft listed below which have previously complied with Piper Service Letter No. 617A, dated February 9, 1973 are exempt from compliance with this Service Letter.

Subject: Piper Automatic Locator Transmitter Replacement

Models Affected:

PA-18 Super Cub

PA-23-250 (Six Place) Aztec

PA-24-260 Comanche

PA-28-140 Cherokee

PA-28-180 Cherokee

Serial Numbers Affected:

18-8965, 18-8968, 18-8971, 18-8974, 18-8976 to 18-9002 incl.

27-4707, 27-4742, 27-4766 to 27-4771 incl., 27-4773, 27-4775 to 27-7304987 incl. and 27-7304998

24-5005 to 24-5028 incl.

28-7225118, 28-7225130, 28-7225132, 28-7225139, 28-7225147, 28-7225150, 28-7225151, 28-7225158, 28-7225160 to 28-7325203 incl.

28-7205145, 28-7205154, 28-7205156 to 28-7305187 incl.

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Models Affected: (continued)

PA-28R-200 Arrow
PA-28-235 Cherokee
PA-31 Navajo

PA-31-350 Navajo
PA-31P Navajo
PA-32-260 Cherokee Six
PA-32-300 Cherokee Six

PA-34 Seneca
PA-39 Twin Comanche C/R

Serial Numbers Affected: (continued)

28R-7235021 to 28R-7335108 incl.
28-7210009 to 28-7310075 incl.
31-750, 31-767, 31-772, 31-773, 31-778, 31-787 to
31-7300938 incl.
31-5001 to 31-7305011 incl.
31P-53, 31P-57, 31P-58, 31P-60 to 31P-7300122 incl.
32-7200020 to 32-7300021 incl.
32-7240067, 32-7240068, 32-7240072, 32-7240074 to
32-7340081 incl.
34-7250075 to 34-7350119 incl.
39-128, 39-133 to 39-152 incl.

NOTE

Due to the extensive nature and complexity of the factory replacement program (i.e., aircraft modified prior to delivery), the possibility exists that a number of aircraft listed in Serial Numbers Affected, above, may have had the PAL transmitter replaced with a Series 3 or Series 21 unit, thereby precluding the necessity of replacement per this Service Letter. A visual check of the PAL transmitter identification plate will determine if this has occurred (see Instructions, below).

Compliance Time:

At the next scheduled inspection (50-hour, 100-hour, annual, etc.).

Purpose:

Information received from the field has indicated that the first and second generation PAL transmitters installed in the above referenced aircraft were, under certain operational conditions, subject to inadvertent triggering or interference with VOR indication, occurring when the communications transmitter is activated.

Piper has been working closely with the PAL transmitter manufacturer in a product improvement program to eliminate conditions described above. The manufacturer has developed improved subsequent generation transmitter units -- (manufacturer's part number 627484) Series 3 and Series 21, and (manufacturer's part number 627674) "new" Series 1; any one of these three series supersedes the "original" Series 1 and Series 2 transmitters.

This Service Letter announces the availability of the "new" (manufacturer's part number 627674) Series 1 transmitters, in addition to the (manufacturer's part number 627484) Series 3 and Series 21 PAL transmitters to replace "original" (manufacturer's part number 627484) Series 1 or Series 2 transmitters in the aircraft referenced above.

Instructions:

1. Gain access to the transmitter unit.
2. Visually observe the identification plate affixed to the side of each transmitter.
 - a. If "Series 3" or "Series 21" is stamped on the I.D. plate, no further action is required; aircraft may be returned to service.
 - b. If "Series 3" or "Series 21" does not appear as described above, continue with No. 3, below.
3. Remove existing transmitter and replace with Piper Part No. 756 399 Transmitter (NOTE: Does not include battery pack and telescopic antenna -- retain existing battery pack and telescopic antenna for use with replacement transmitter). See NOTE under Material Required, below.
4. Check operation of PAL as described in Airplane Flight Manual or Pilot's Operating Manual, whichever applies.
5. Make proper log book entry.

Material Required:

One (1) each (per aircraft) Piper Part No. 756 399 Transmitter -- Piper Automatic Locator (Series 3 or Series 21 Transmitter -- less battery pack and telescopic antenna), as required per Instructions No. 3, above.

NOTE

Under normal circumstances, when complying with this Service Letter, the Piper Part No. 756 399 Automatic Locator Transmitter (Series 3 or Series 21) will be supplied on demand. However, if these units are out of stock, the "new" Series 1 (described above) will be provided as a substitute and will be processed under Piper Part No. 761 938; the "new" Series 1 provided in this manner will include a new battery pack special mounting bracket, as the battery pack for this unit cannot be used interchangeably with the battery pack for the previous series units. Instructions to this effect will be supplied with each substitute unit.

Availability of Parts:

Your Piper Dealer.

Effectivity Date:

This Service Letter is effective September 14, 1973.

Summary:

Please make arrangements with your Piper Dealer to have your Piper Automatic Locator System checked for possible transmitter replacement, as specified by this Service Letter. Should your transmitter require replacement, an appropriate replacement unit will be provided you at no charge, if the replacement is accomplished by your Piper Dealer