UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
OFFICE OF AIRCRAFT SERVICES

SAFETY ALERT

No. 00-01   April 4, 2000

Subject:
Aircraft Cleaning

Distribution:
All DOI Aviation Activities

Discussion: Thanks to the folks at *Flightfax Magazine* and the U.S. Army, we have been alerted to a potential hazard to aviation operations. Though this article mentions one product by name, the supporting documentation states that the offending ingredient "d-Limonene" is found in a number of common over-the-counter cleaners.

Recommendations: OAS recommends all aircraft operators/maintainers:

1. Use only cleaning products authorized by the aircraft manufacturer.

2. Ensure cleaning products used on aircraft do not contain "d-Limonene."

The point of contact for additional information on this subject is Steve Rauch, OAS, 208-387-5805.

Robert Galloway
Aviation Safety Manager

Shortfax
Keeping you up to date

Simple Green's Not for Aircraft Washing

Don't Use "SIMPLE GREEN" to wash aircraft or aircraft components.

It has been brought to the attention of the AMCOM Depot Maintenance Engineering Team that numerous units are using the commercial product SIMPLE GREEN as an aircraft wash. STOP! This product has been through DoD testing and was determined to be highly corrosive on aircraft aluminum. It can also be a catalyst for hydrogen embrittlement in high strength aircraft alloys.

While it is a highly effective cleaning agent for floors and non-aluminum/non-high strength alloy vehicles, this product is not approved for aviation usage.

If your unit has been using SIMPLE GREEN on a regular basis, it is recommended that a thorough fresh-water wash with the approved cleaners per the appropriate airframe maintenance manuals be accomplished as soon as practicable. This should be followed up with a corrosion inspection/treatment and application of approved CPCs.

Insure that no unauthorized cleaning products are being used on your aircraft or in the shops as a component cleaner.

—Mr. Richard Cardinale, DSN 861-4041, [361-961-4041], corrosion@amcom-cc.army.mil