



Interagency Aviation TECH BULLETIN



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SUBJECT: Interim Change to Interagency Aerial Ignition Guide

DISTRIBUTION: Aviation Operations

Brainerd Helicopters has advised the interagency aviation community that they have received FAA field (337) approval for a “PSD Adapter Plate”. This plate securely mounts the currently approved Premo Mark III, Aerostat Mark V and Red Dragon Plastic Sphere Dispensers (PSD) on four AS-350 helicopters under contract to the U.S. Forest Service and U.S. Department of the Interior. Further, they have applied for a Supplemental Type Certificate for this installation. This bracket should answer FAA concerns about using belly straps to secure PSD systems on Brainerd's A-Star helicopters. The “Brainerd PSD Adapter Plate” has been evaluated for suitability by the Interagency Aerial Ignition Unit and endorsed by the Interagency Helicopter Operations Subcommittee for installation on these four contract aircraft, as well as others that might be subsequently listed on the FAA-issued Supplemental Type Certificate once approved.

Chapter III of the Interagency Aerial Ignition Guide (IAIG), dated March 2012, specifies in Section XV: PSD Installation Procedures (General) that, “Note: All Type 3 and 4 helicopters shall use belly straps to secure the device”. To avoid having to wait for the next revision of the IAIG, the National Interagency Aviation Council (NIAC) has agreed to an interim change to the IAIG which allows the use of the PSD adapter plate, other similar PSD security mounting brackets which may subsequently receive FAA approval and have been endorsed by the interagency aviation community that reports to NIAC. Accordingly, field users of the IAIG are advised that the note at the bottom of Page III-8 will be changed to read, “Note: Type 3 and 4 helicopters shall use belly straps or FAA-approved adapter plate/mounting brackets to secure the device. Type 2 helicopters may use a belly strap or approved model-specific hard points.” Additionally, for the AS-350, add the following to the Note at the bottom of Page III-10. “The Brainerd PSD Adapter Plate requires installation and removal by a company mechanic. PLDO operators should receive an in-depth briefing from the pilot on procedures specific to this mounting system.”

This change is effective immediately and will remain in effect until the next revision of the IAIG.

/s/ Ralph Getchell

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