

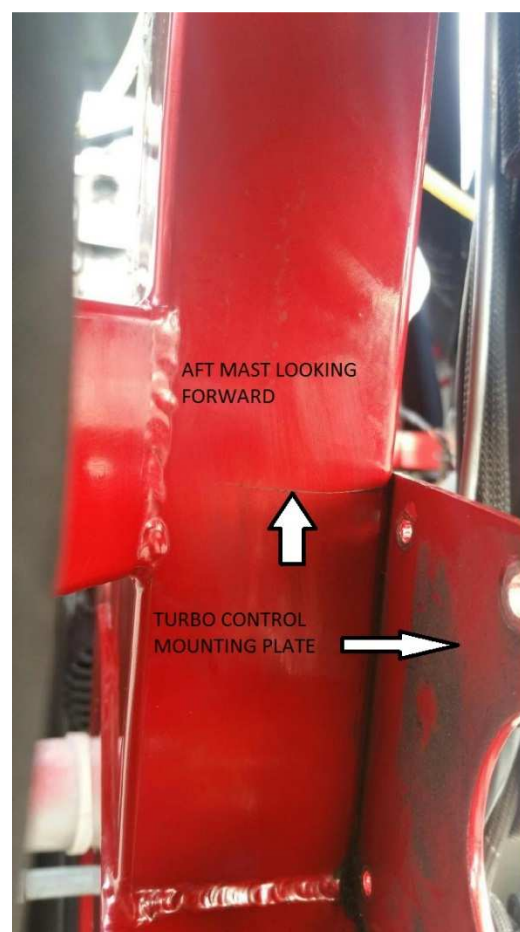
SAFETY ALERT

No: SA 2016.01

Date: 31 May 2016

Subject: ELA Mast Cracks

The owner of an ELA gyroplane has reported finding cracks in the mast of his gyro during a routine pre-flight inspection. Close inspection revealed that the mast was cracked on both the forward and aft faces of the mast in the region of the welds between the mast and the upper keel junction.





The manufacturer was contacted and advised that there was no suitable repair available and that a new airframe would be required.

Anecdotal evidence indicates that other types of gyroplanes in Europe have suffered similar cracking although confirmation of this has not been available.

The reader should realise that the airframes are powder coated and due to the elasticity of that material, cracks may not be visible until they are well advanced.

ALERT: ASRA strongly recommends that the owners, operators and pilots of all types of gyroplanes that utilise welded alloy airframes pay particular attention to the airframes in the vicinity of welded joints during pre-flight inspections and regularly during their daily operations for indications of airframe cracking.

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