



Zenith Aircraft Company
Updated 12/17/2009

FAA Issues Special Airworthiness Information Bulletin CE-10-08 (Nov. 7, 2009): Zodiac CH601 XL

Further to the issuance of the [FAA Special Airworthiness Information Bulletin \(SAIB\): CE-10-08](#), Zenith Aircraft Company advises all owners of Zodiac CH 601 XL and CH 650 aircraft to follow the recommendations contained in the SAIB.

[EAA](#) reports that "the FAA's investigation, done in cooperation with the aircraft manufacturer, uncovered areas of concern... As a result, the FAA is strongly recommending that owners and operators of Zodiac CH601XL and CH650 aircraft comply with actions outlined in a forthcoming safety directive/alert to address those concerns. The FAA is urging that the aircraft not be flown until the maintenance is completed."

AMD, manufacturer of the Zodiac CH 601 XL S-LSA (factory-built aircraft), has issued a [Safety Alert / Safety Directive \(November 7, 2009\)](#) which outlines procedures required to resume normal operations (prior to the July 7, 2009 Letter from Chris Heintz limitations), including upgrades detailed on [Drawings 6-ZU-1, 6-ZU-2, 6-ZU-3 and 6-ZU-4, and LAA Aileron Balance](#) (these latest updated drawings are dated December 9, 2009). The FAA SAIB document recommends that all owners comply to the AMD Safety Alert / Safety Directive before further flight.

We have drafted the following [Questions and Answers with Chris Heintz document](#) to help builders and owners understand these upgrades, which were recently structurally tested and independently verified ([Document396](#)). An Upgrade Package is being made available to all builders and owners of kit versions of the aircraft, and includes detailed drawings and step-by-step installation instructions.

- **Builders and owners:** [Click here](#) to order your Upgrade Package kit. Now that we have finalized and verified the [Drawings](#), the Upgrade Package kit is now in production. We have also prepared **Photo Assembly Guides** to supplement the drawings and to help kit builders install these upgrades to their existing kit. [Click here](#) to view a video clip of the Upgrade Package kit.

Zenith Aircraft Company continues to install the Upgrade Package in the factory demonstrator Zodiac CH 601 XL. [Click here](#) to follow our latest progress. We have been verifying the drawings and documenting the process for the builder manuals as we have been installing the Upgrade Package, and making sure that all parts fit properly, and that there is access to install them... and we've made updates in the process. We have [started making the parts](#) for the Upgrade Kit, and have begun shipping them to builders.



Additional Information:

- Check out and contribute to the [Zenair Q&A](#) discussion board for answers to many of your questions.
- [See the latest progress](#) as Zenith Aircraft Company installs the Upgrade Package kit to the factory demonstrator Zodiac CH 601 XL.
- December 9, 2009: We've updated the [Drawings 6-ZU-1, 6-ZU-2, 6-ZU-3 and 6-ZU-4, and LAA Aileron Balance](#).
- December 17, 2009: Builder [Photo Assembly Guides](#) to supplement the drawings.

- **Applicability:** The AMD Safety Alert is to be used for all CH 601 XL / CH 650 aircraft with a gross weight of more than 475 kg. (1,050 lbs), including Canadian Advanced Ultralights (AULA) aircraft.
- **European builders and owners:** See <http://www.zenairulm.com> for continued airworthiness updates.

We are committed to working with all builders and owners so that they may resume building and operating their aircraft as soon as possible by incorporating the updates at minimal cost and inconvenience.

We ask for the full cooperation of all builders, owners and pilots with this important information, and **we thank them for their continued support** through this difficult time.

Zenith Aircraft Co.
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Re: NTSB Issues Safety Recommendation to FAA

July 27, 2009: [Zodiac Updates letter](#)

July 7, 2009: [Letter from Chris Heintz: Recommendations for inspections and operating limitations](#)

Flutter analysis report from Germany: [CH 650](#) and [ZODIAC XL](#)

May 7, 2009: [FAA Helps Zodiac 601XL Builder Get Airworthiness Inspection](#)

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April 22, 2009

Zenair met with FAA officials on April 22, 2009. The meeting was productive, with FAA officials confirming that they have no plans to ground the fleet of Zodiac CH-601XL aircraft.

In response to the NTSB Safety Recommendation letter (dated April 14, 2009), the FAA officials stated that they will commence their own thorough review of the Zodiac design, and has given this review high priority. Zenair will cooperate fully in assisting the FAA.

Zenair also continues with the ongoing design analysis of the Zodiac CH-601XL, including wing flutter analysis. The independent consulting team from Germany has released preliminary findings. These preliminary findings confirm that the aircraft, with properly tensioned control cables, is not prone to flutter. The team is continuing its analysis, including the recommendations set forth in the NTSB's letter, such as mass balanced ailerons.

Zenair wants to remind builders, owners and pilots to verify that all control surfaces are properly fastened and secured, and free of play, and that control stops are present and properly installed, and that the control systems are not loose. Pilots are reminded to operate the aircraft within its design limitations.

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April 20, 2009

Since the NTSB Safety Recommendation to the FAA on April 14, we have been receiving many calls and messages from concerned Zodiac builders, owners, and pilots, inquiring about the Zenair response to the NTSB's Safety Recommendation.

Zenair has made this a top priority and is spending significant resources on this matter. Zenair has retained independent consultants to [analyze the design](#) of the Zodiac 601XL and 650.

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NTSB Safety Recommendation to FAA: http://www.nts.gov/recs/letters/2009/A09_30_37.pdf

[\[Back\]](#)



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2009-12-17