



Piper Aircraft, Inc.
2926 Piper Drive
Vero Beach, FL, U.S.A. 32960

SERVICE NO. 1280A BULLETIN

PIPER CONSIDERS COMPLIANCE MANDATORY

Date: April 29, 2016

(S) (M)

Service Bulletin (SB) 1280A supersedes SB 1280 in its entirety. Aircraft that were previously made compliant with SB 1280 are in compliance with SB 1280A, with the following exception: PA-46-500TP owners/operators who have already complied with SB 1280 must verify the accuracy of the relevant logbook entry, as described herein.

SUBJECT:

H3R FIRE EXTINGUISHER REPLACEMENT

REASON FOR REVISION:

SB 1280A clarifies effectivities for all affected airplanes. It also advises PA-46-500TP owners/operators who complied with SB 1280 to confirm the accuracy of their logbook entry.

MODELS AFFECTED:

PA-28-161 Cadet
PA-28-161 Warrior II

PA-28-161 Warrior III
PA-28-181 Archer III
PA-28R-201 Arrow III
PA-28-236 Dakota

PA-32R-301 Saratoga II HP
PA-32R-301T Saratoga II TC
PA-32-301FT Piper 6X
PA-32-301XTC Piper 6XT
PA-34-200T Seneca II
PA-34-220T Seneca III

PA-34-220T Seneca IV
PA-34-220T Seneca V
PA-44-180 Seminole

PA-44-180T Turbo Seminole
PA-46-350P Mirage/M350
PA-46-500TP Meridian/M500
PA-46R-350T Matrix

SERIAL NUMBERS AFFECTED:

2841001 through 2841365
28-7716094 through 28-8616057;
2816001 through 2816109
2816110 through 2816119; 2842001 through 2842395
2890206 through 2890231; 2843001 through 2843818
2844001 through 2844155
28-7911004 through 28-8611008;
2811032 through 2811050
3213042 through 3213103; 3246018 through 3246244
3257001 through 3257493
3232001 through 3232074
3255001 through 3255051
34-7570001 through 34-8170092
34-8133001 through 34-8633031;
3433001 through 3433172; 3448001 through 3448037
3447001 through 3447029; 3448038 through 3448079
3449001 through 3449500
44-7995001 through 44-8195026;
4495001 through 4496386
44-8107001 through 44-8207020
4636021 through 4636660
4697001 through 4697590
4692001 through 4692212

COMPLIANCE TIME:

Part I: **Inspection:** Initial inspection is to coincide with the next regularly scheduled maintenance event, but not to exceed the next 100 hours time in service, or 30 calendar days, whichever comes first.

Part II: **Recurring Maintenance Requirements:** After Part I has been completed and until the aircraft is in compliance with Part III, Part II is applicable prior to each flight.

Part III: **Replacement:** At the discretion of the owner/operator

NOTE: Compliance with Part III will eliminate the inspection requirement described in Part I and the recurring maintenance requirements described in Part II.

APPROVAL: The engineering aspects of this service document have been shown to comply with the applicable Federal Aviation Regulations and are FAA approved.

PURPOSE: Piper has been notified by a fire extinguisher distributor (see H3R Aviation's Service Bulletin 2015-01, attached) that some of the affected aircraft may have fire extinguishers that experience premature leakage. A fire extinguisher in this condition may not be able to deliver the rated quantity of fire suppressant intended.

This service bulletin provides instructions for identifying fire extinguishers that may experience premature leakage, and mandates recurring maintenance of those fire extinguishers. For some of the affected aircraft, this service bulletin mandates the installation of a placard, which states the recurring maintenance requirement, onto the fire extinguisher.

This service bulletin also announces the availability of a replacement fire extinguisher, which, when installed, will eliminate the recurring maintenance requirement described in this service bulletin.

INSTRUCTIONS:

NOTE: On all affected aircraft except for PA-46R-350T Matrix, an onboard fire extinguisher is not an FAA requirement.

- The PA-46R-350T Matrix was certified to a later amendment level (Amdt. 23-45) of FAA CFR 23.851, which requires the installation of a fire extinguisher. Continue with the incorporation of this service bulletin.
- For all other affected models, if there is no fire extinguisher installed, make a logbook entry stating so and take no further action.

NOTE: Fire extinguishers that are bracket mounted may need to be removed from the bracket to accomplish the inspection or maintenance procedures in these instructions.

Part I. Inspection

1. Locate the fire extinguisher, and compare it to Figure 1. The fire extinguisher in Figure 1 is Piper P/N 459-887, and will have the manufacturer's marking "RT-A600."
 - If the onboard fire extinguisher matches the one shown in Figure 1, then further action is required. Proceed to Step 2.
 - If the onboard fire extinguisher is NOT a match to the one shown in Figure 1, no further action is required. Proceed to Part IV, Documentation of Compliance.

2. Examine the date code label, which is found on the UL nameplate or on the underside of the cylinder.
 - If the date code is 2012 or newer or no date code is found, then further action is required. Proceed to Step 3.
 - If the date code is 2011 or older, no further action is required. Proceed to Part IV, Documentation of Compliance.
3. Examine the fire extinguisher for a placard, as shown in Figure 2, with the following text:

WEIGH THIS UNIT BEFORE EACH FLIGHT

If this placard is not attached, contact H3R Aviation to obtain one:

Email: H3Rinfo@H3Raviation.com
 Enter the subject "SB2015-01"

Phone: (+1) 800-249-4289 or (+1) 415-945-0800, ext. 805

Address: H3R Aviation, Inc., 103 H Street, Petaluma, CA 94952

Install the placard as follows:

- a. Locate the area to the right of the UL nameplate that is free of labels.
- b. Clean the mounting surface with isopropyl alcohol and allow the surface to dry.



Figure 1
 Fire Extinguisher –
 Piper P/N 459-887



Figure 2
 Fire Extinguisher – Piper P/N 459-887
 with Label, "Weigh This Unit
 Before Each Flight"



Figure 3
 Replacement Fire Extinguisher –
 Piper P/N 459-750

- c. Remove the placard from its backing and firmly press it onto the extinguisher.

NOTE: At the operator's discretion, the required placard may be fabricated instead of procured from H3R Aviation, provided that the end result conforms to Figure 2. Use a minimum font size of 12 points.

4. Proceed to Part IV.

Part II. Recurring Maintenance Requirements

NOTE: This part is applicable to original RT-A600 fire extinguishers only, and not replacement A334T.

Prior to each flight, remove the fire extinguisher from its mounting bracket (if applicable) and weigh. Compare measured weight with minimum weight listed on the fire extinguisher. Replace any fire extinguisher that weighs less than the minimum requirement.

Part III. Replacement

- **For Meridian models only, with the pyramid cabinet installed:** If the existing fire extinguisher is installed in a drawer of the pyramid cabinet, remove and discard that fire extinguisher. Order and install Kit – Fire Extinguisher Replacement, Piper P/N 88572-001. The kit includes the replacement fire extinguisher, Piper P/N 459-750, shown in Figure 3, and the parts and instructions to modify the existing pyramid cabinet for mounting the replacement extinguisher.

NOTE: PA-46-500TP owners/operators that have already complied with SB 1280 by installing Piper Kit part number (P/N) 88572-001 must confirm that their logbook entry states that the installation was to comply with SB 1280, not “SB 1220.” Piper Kit P/N 88572 Rev. B and earlier erroneously cited “SB 1220” as the service bulletin for which that kit installation complied. Piper Kit 88572 Rev. C corrects this typographical error.

- **For Mirage models only, with the pyramid cabinet installed:** The bottle diameter of the replacement fire extinguisher Piper P/N 459-750 (model A344T) (see Figure 3) is 2.63 inches, compared to 2.51 inches for the existing fire extinguisher. Due to its larger diameter, the replacement fire extinguisher will not fit in the same location. For those aircraft, some other FAA approved method of mounting the fire extinguisher must be used.
- **For all other affected aircraft:** Remove and discard existing fire extinguisher, Piper P/N 459-887. Remove and discard the existing mounting bracket; retain the existing hardware for reuse. Order and install Piper P/N 459-750 (Figure 3), which includes the replacement fire extinguisher and mounting bracket. Install the replacement mounting bracket using the existing hardware, installed through the existing airframe fastener holes. Install the replacement fire extinguisher onto the bracket.

NOTE: Existing fire extinguisher Piper P/N 459-887 contains a blend of Halon 1211 and 1301. The replacement fire extinguisher, Piper P/N 459-750, contains Halon 1211. Check local regulations governing the disposal of these fire extinguishers.

NOTE: The replacement fire extinguisher features a pressure gauge, which eliminates the need to remove and weigh the fire extinguisher on a regular basis.

Part IV. Documentation of Compliance

Make a logbook entry documenting compliance with this Service Bulletin, stating which Part(s) have been complied with.

MATERIAL REQUIRED: Affected PA-46-500TP Meridians only, on condition: one (1) each, Kit – Fire Extinguisher Replacement, Piper P/N 88572-001, per aircraft

All other affected aircraft, on condition: one (1) Fire Extinguisher Assembly, Piper P/N 459-750, per aircraft

AVAILABILITY OF PARTS: Your Factory Authorized Piper Service Facility

EFFECTIVITY DATE: This service bulletin is effective upon receipt.

SUMMARY: Applicable factory participation is limited to new aircraft in warranty at the time of compliance. Factory participation will remain in effect for a period of time not to exceed 180 days from the date of this service bulletin.

Please contact your Factory Authorized Piper Service Facility to make arrangements for compliance with this service bulletin in accordance with the compliance time indicated.

NOTE: Please notify the factory of any address/ownership corrections. Changes should include aircraft model, serial number, and current owner's name and address.

Corrections and/or changes should be directed to:

PIPER AIRCRAFT, INC.
Attn: Customer Service
2926 Piper Drive
Vero Beach, FL 32960

SERVICE BULLETIN

DATE: March 23, 2015

SERVICE BULLETIN: 2015-01

SUBJECT: Enhanced Inspection Procedures for Disposable Halon Blend Fire Extinguishers Manufactured by Protection R.T., Inc.

MODELS AFFECTED: RT-A400, RT-A600, RT-A1200 Manufactured in 2012 and thereafter

TIME OF COMPLIANCE: The required action should be completed at the earliest opportunity.

Analysis of H3R Aviation warranty return data indicates that certain H3R Aviation-distributed fire extinguisher models manufactured in 2012 and 2013, appear to fall below the requisite minimum gross weight sooner than the historical norm. It is the opinion of H3R Aviation that post-2013 production of these models may also experience premature leakage at higher than normal rates, though currently available data does not yet indicate any issues.

In the interest of safety, we are directing enhanced inspection for the three affected models, all manufactured by Protection RT, Inc., in Quebec, Canada. The three models are the disposable, aerosol-type fire extinguishers containing a blend of Halon 1211 and Halon 1301 listed above. The year of manufacture can be determined by locating a label affixed either to the underside of the cylinder, or to the UL nameplate.

NOTE: Our data is limited to returns to H3R Aviation of H3R Aviation-distributed products that were accepted under warranty during the warranty period. Our data does not include information on extinguishers that the manufacturer has sold to other customers.

Returns within 2 Year Warranty Period by Year of Manufacture

Model	Year of manufacture		
	2007-2011	2012	2013
RT-A400	0.081%	0.139%	0.302%
RT-A600	0.122%	2.326%	1.119%
RT-A1200	0.154%	0.194%	0.505%

The manufacturer has been informed of our findings, has indicated that they have conducted their own internal analysis, and has assured us that the issue has been addressed and corrected to their satisfaction. However, in the interest of safety, each affected extinguisher that

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ships from our facility will bear a label that states, “Weigh this unit before each flight.” Note that the manufacturer has neither endorsed nor co-authored the contents of this Service Bulletin.

National Fire Protection Association Standard No. 10, Standard for Portable Fire Extinguishers, establishes minimum inspection and maintenance procedures for fire extinguishers. We believe that our enhanced inspection directive is in line with the requirements of NFPA 10, which calls for determining fullness by weighing or hefting at least monthly, and as often as daily if circumstances indicate the need. Fire extinguishers, by their nature, leak, and “hefting” provides only an approximation of an extinguisher’s fullness. Given the importance of an aviation fire extinguisher, and bearing in mind that these extinguishers have no pressure gauge to visually indicate low pressure, weighing the extinguisher, and weighing it before each flight provides maximum assurance that it will function as intended.

Although each extinguisher is inspected and weighed prior to leaving our facility, and per NFPA 10 the unit is supposed to be weighed prior to installation, we view this recurrent measurement as necessary to mitigate the risk of a slow leak that might be otherwise undetected.

H3R Aviation distributors of affected units who have extinguishers remaining in stock should apply a label that states “Weigh this unit before each flight” to each affected extinguisher remaining in stock. This advice is in addition to low-weight instructions already on each extinguisher and is calculated to help avoid safety risk from leakage.

H3R Aviation distributors should share a copy of this Service Bulletin with each customer to whom affected units have already been sold / shipped.

End-users who have purchased (or otherwise received) affected units without the “Weigh this unit before each flight” label are requested to apply a label that states “Weigh this unit before each flight” to each extinguisher. They are further requested to weigh each affected extinguisher before each flight.

It is important to note that effective January 1, 2015, H3R Aviation relocated to the address shown on this bulletin. Labeling on the extinguishers directs return of low weight extinguishers for recycling to our former address in Larkspur, California. **IMPORTANT! DO NOT SEND PACKAGES TO THE LOCATION SHOWN ON THE EXTINGUISHER LABELING AS THEY WILL LIKELY BE RETURNED TO THE SENDER.** Warranty returns and returns for the purpose of recycling should be sent to Protection R.T., Inc. at the address shown on the warranty enclosed in the extinguisher packaging.

Protection R.T., Inc.
564 Orly Avenue
Dorval, Quebec , H9P 1E9
T. 514-631-1794
prtinc@videotron.ca

If you have further questions or would like to discuss alternatives to these extinguishers, we are available to assist you. Also, labels for affected extinguishers currently in inventory or in service, are available. Inquiries should be directed to Chris Dieter at extension 802 or Robin Critelli at extension 801.

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