

Safety Recommendation A-67-15

The National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) issued Safety Recommendation A-67-15 to the Federal Aviation Administration on March 30, 1967, as a result of the NTSB's investigation of the deterioration of the fuel tank sealing compound in Piper Cherokee (PA-28-32) planes. The results of the Board's investigation of two fatal Piper Cherokee (PA-28-32) accidents and the subsequent visual inspection of over fifty more model PA-28-32 aircraft disclosed, in well over 50 percent of the cases, a deterioration of the fuel tank sealing compound on the internal walls of these tanks. There was noted in some instances the peeling-off in large sheets and in other cases the flaking of smaller particles of this compound. The text of Safety Recommendation A-67-15 is as follows:

To the Federal Aviation Administration: The board recommends that an Airworthiness Directive be published requiring an internal inspection of the main integral type fuel tanks on Piper PA-28/PA-32 aircraft for any evidence of peeling or flaking of the sealant compound. Those tanks found faulty should be repaired or replaced as directed by the manufacturer prior to further passenger or commercial flight. It is further recommended that this inspection be continually required on all PA-28-32 aircraft at appropriate intervals until a permanent solution to the peeling and flaking problem is found, or until adequate tank access plates can be installed allowing complete internal inspection and internal tank repairs to be made during periodic inspections.