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TECHNICAL BULLETIN

Subject: Batteries for Vintage Aircraft

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The FAA has just made changing a battery a little simpler for many aircraft owners.

FAA Advisory Circular (AC) 23-27, issued in May 2009, allows owners with aircraft Type-Certified before 1980, and meeting certain criteria, to simply replace the current battery on the TC or STC, with an FAA-PMA Concorde battery similar in form, fit and function.

Why is this important? It's significant because it means, even in the absence of an STC or PMA, there need only be a log book entry to install on many aircraft, whether out of production or still being manufactured today. "These guidelines will help owners avoid having to obtain field approval for like substitutions on subsequent aircraft".

Applicability:

- Small aircraft type certified before January 1, 1980
- Maximum certificated weight of 12,500 pounds or less
- Fixed wing, un-pressurized, reciprocating engine or sailplane
- **"Follow-on Type Certificate (TC) Models of the same aircraft, or a derivative thereof, which may be assigned a later TC date, also meet this criteria."**

Batteries (Excerpt – Appendix 1 "Parts Substitutions"):

"If one type of series 35 battery (e.g. a Gill 35) is approved as original equipment or a PMA part, and another type of series 35 battery (e.g. a CONCORDE 35) is PMA approved for some aircraft models but not your model aircraft, you may install the alternate type of series 35 battery and document the installation with only a logbook entry."

"As long as the batteries are the same weight, within plus or minus one pound, and have such similar physical characteristics as to enable the use of the same securing or attaching devices, mechanisms, or containers."

For a copy of the complete Advisory Circular, follow this link:

http://www.airweb.faa.gov/Regulatory_and_Guidance_Library/rgAdvisoryCircular.nsf/0/CCF7DAA C581048CD862575E6006CA078?OpenDocument