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AIRBOAT PROPELLER SERVICE BULLETIN AB0209 12-28-22

TO: ALL PROPELLER OWNERS AND OPERATORS USING THREE BLADE HUBS WITH THREE CLAMPING BOLTS

SUBJECT: POSSIBLE CRACKING OF PROPELLER HUB CLAMPING BOLTS

PROPELLER MODEL(S): SENSENICH THREE BLADE COMPOSITE AIRBOAT PROPELLER HUBS WITH ONLY THREE CLAMPING BOLTS

DISCUSSION:

Sensenich has received some reports of clamping bolts cracking and/or breaking on three blade propeller hubs on direct drive engines. This problem occurs on two older versions of Sensenich compact three blade hubs with only 3 clamping bolts. The easiest way to identify whether your hub is affected is by counting how many clamp bolts are used to bolt the hub halves together and hold the blades in place.

See Figure 1



Figure 1. Three blade hub with three clamping bolts

Hubs that *are not* affected by this Service Bulletin include:

- all two blade, four blade, and five blade hubs.
- any three blade hub with 6 *clamp bolts* is excluded. **See Figure 2.**



Figure 2. Hubs not affected: 2 blade hub, 3 blade hub with 6 clamp bolts, 4 blade hub, (5 blade hub not shown)

Upgrading to hubs with the 6 clamping bolt pattern will significantly strengthen the hub system and provide a higher margin of safety.

Sensenich no longer modifies older 3 blade hubs with 3 clamp bolts to the 6 clamp bolt configuration. Sensenich recommends retiring 3 blade hubs with only 3 clamp bolts and switching to a newer 3 blade hub with 6 clamp bolts.

Inquire directly with Sensenich on availability of used or new 6 bolt hubs.

PRE-AIRBOATING INSPECTION

The propeller is the single-most important part of your airboat. If your propeller is not properly maintained, you risk injury to yourself or other people.

Before going for an airboat ride, you must perform a “pre-airboating” inspection to make sure the propeller, engine and rigging are in good condition, and that everything else is secure and/or properly stowed.

Vigilant inspection and maintenance is **absolutely required** to ensure continued safe operation of airboat propellers. Refer to the Propeller Use and Care Instructions, available on our website at: <http://www.sensenich.com/support/documents> and click on installation instructions.

- PROPELLER CHECKS:**
- Inspect blade tightness in the hub.** Grab blades at the tip and rock back and forth.
 - Inspect bolts.** Check that all the hub bolts are present and not loose.
 - Inspect blade shanks.** Run your fingers around the root where the blade exits the metal hub, and check for loose fibers, cracks, or rough areas.
 - Inspect metal edges.** Check that the metal on the blade leading edges is in good shape and not loose.
 - Inspect blades.** Check blades for impact damage, holes, and cracks.
 - Contact Sensenich with any questions.

*The freedom you enjoy in engineering and building your custom airboat makes **YOU** responsible for its maintenance and continued safe operation.*