

Report of defect to PIK-20D PH-666 October 2018

During routine maintenance to Eirivion PIK-20D PH-666 a fracture was found in the airbrake control rod in the cockpit, just aft of the vertical airbrake lever grip of the pilot (see photo). The crack originated from the weld of the vertical lever grip to the horizontal control rod, on the topside of the rod, and propagated down in a radial manner across the rod approx. $\frac{1}{2}$ of the diameter of the rod. It is a fatigue crack, most likely. Light surface corrosion was present, but is thought not to be a major causal factor. The aircraft was delivered to a certified repair shop for repair to the standards set by the manufacturer. The control rod would have eventually failed, leading to reduced airbrake control, or uncommanded airbrake control inputs.

Photo 1: crack in control rod (RH side of photo is in direction of flight).

