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DEPARTMENT OF CIVIL AVIATION  
**Airworthiness Notices**

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T/17

**CONTROL OF PRECISION CUTTING TOOLS**

1. Recent incidents during airframe manufacture have highlighted the ease with which incorrect countersink angles and knife edge holes may be cut when adequate controls are not in place. In the latest incident, a series of 90° countersinks were cut when 100° was specified. This was not revealed during fastener installation or the subsequent inspection of the fasteners, as the countersinks were covered by the fastener heads.
2. Manufacturers and maintenance organizations are reminded of the need to ensure that adequate procedures are in place to control the issue and use of precision cutting tools and the installation of correct fasteners.
3. Incorrectly cut countersinks can cause severe decrease in the strength of a joint leading to a serious reduction in airworthiness and to the need for costly repair or replacement.