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SERVICE BULLETIN NUMBER: 04-2-1

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APPLICATION: Fuel Tanks

SUBJECT: Protective plastic sheeting found in fuel tank.

## BACKGROUND AND INTRODUCTION:

Van's Aircraft, Inc. recently received a report of clear protective plastic sheet having been found inside fuel tanks. In 2000, the color of the applied protective sheeting was changed to a "blue" to minimize the possibility of inadvertently leaving it in place during construction. Prior to this change, the sheeting was clear and more difficult to detect on the skins. It has come to our attention that at least one QuickBuild RV-6 aircraft produced prior to the change has been found with some of the protective sheeting inside the tank. The report indicates that the rear baffles in both left and right tanks were still covered in the protective plastic. This was detected by visual inspection through the fuel filler necks during refueling.

Van's Aircraft feels it prudent to issue this Service Bulletin recommending a one time inspection of fuel tanks on all RV-6/6A QuickBuild Wings and any Standard Kit Wings built prior to our supplying the "blue" version of protective sheeting.

## RECOMMENDATIONS:

### Visual Inspection:

Empty the fuel tank and use an inspection light to view the rear baffle and interior tank skin through the fuel filler cap. (*Observe all precautions when looking into a tank that may still contain fuel vapors.*) In the report that we received, the adhesive on the plastic had loosened allowing the plastic to pull away from the aluminum baffle and was easily detectable.

### Optional method of Inspection:

- Remove the wing root fairings.
- Disconnect and remove the fuel level sending units from the inboard inspection cover on the fuel tank.
- Remove the fuel tank inspection cover, using a ratcheting right-angle screwdriver. If the covers stick to the tank, carefully use a *plastic* serrated knife to cut through the adhesive sealant.
- Reach inside the tank to the forward face of the rear baffle and check for plastic.
- Inspect the interior of the tank skin for plastic.

If plastic sheet is found, contact Van's Aircraft Technical Support for further instructions.

If no plastic sheet is found, the inspection cover and fuel sender may be reinstalled and no further action is required.