

Aviation Safety Bulletin

ASB No: 90-025/M

DEC, 2001

Subject :

Ensure Covers are removed from Pitot-Static Ports following any maintenance and cleaning activity.

Background :

1. An airline Boeing MD-11 flight crew found static ports were obstructed by masking tape during walk around check. No reporting entry regarding abnormal situation from the last flight was logged.

2. Investigation revealed that prior to departure, the aircraft had been put on a maintenance test for auxiliary pitot-static probe leakage check. The aircraft was prepared by using the masking tape covering the right hand side fuselage auxiliary standby pitot- static port. Obstruction of the pitot-static ports may have caused the erroneous airspeed and altitude indications on standby altimeter/airspeed indicator.

Recommendation :

1. Ensure procedures for removal and installation of any covers, moisture resistant paper or any type of tape used to cover these openings, must exist in the documentation, and such activity must be logged in the maintenance records.

2. Ensure maintenance staff have been trained to follow standard procedures (i.e. standard cover tooling with apparent flag) either on a maintenance activity or pre-flight/transit check.

3. Thoroughly follow the work hands-off procedure, and all the jobs need further follow up action and should be properly stated during to facilitate work turn over.