

**SERIOUS INCIDENT**

<b>Aircraft Type and Registration:</b>	Champion 7ECA Citabria Aurora, G-EGWN	
<b>No &amp; Type of Engines:</b>	1 Lycoming O-235-K2C piston engine	
<b>Year of Manufacture:</b>	2007 (Serial no: 1399-2007)	
<b>Date &amp; Time (UTC):</b>	18 July 2013 at 0850 hrs	
<b>Location:</b>	RAF Halton, Buckinghamshire	
<b>Type of Flight:</b>	Training	
<b>Persons on Board:</b>	Crew - 2	Passengers - None
<b>Injuries:</b>	Crew - None	Passengers - N/A
<b>Nature of Damage:</b>	None	
<b>Commander's Licence:</b>	Airline Transport Pilot's Licence	
<b>Commander's Age:</b>	58 years	
<b>Commander's Flying Experience:</b>	9,500 hours (of which 65 were on type) Last 90 days - 123 hours Last 28 days - 41 hours	
<b>Information Source:</b>	Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot	

**Synopsis**

The instructor reported that during an aerobatic training sortie the elevator control became restricted; a successful landing was carried out. A foreign object was later found lodged against the elevator control stop.

bounced several times with increasing amplitude, whilst pitching between the main wheels and the tailwheel, before coming to rest. The two occupants were uninjured and the aircraft did not sustain any damage.

**Description of event**

During an aerobatic training sortie the instructor realised that the elevator control had become restricted, making it difficult to pitch the aircraft's nose up sufficiently to maintain level flight. After assessing the remaining control authority he decided to land as soon as practical, in case the restriction became worse. An uneventful approach was flown with the student assisting with pitch control under the direction of the instructor. After touchdown, due to the elevator restriction, the aircraft

**Inspection**

After removing the fairing around the stern post, a red painted steel ring approximately 45 mm in diameter was found jammed in the elevator up stop, Figure 1. This limited the maximum upwards travel of the elevator to 1½ degrees below the neutral position. The origin of the ring or how it entered the aircraft could not be determined.

## Discussion

The event was well handled by the experienced instructor, but slightly different circumstances could

easily have led to a catastrophic outcome. This incident serves as a valuable reminder of the potential hazards posed by loose articles in aircraft.



**Figure 1**

View of loose article as found after landing  
(Photograph courtesy of Nigel Huxtable)

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## BULLETIN ADDENDUM

The following addendum was issued in the February issue of the AAIB Bulletin.

### Original synopsis

The instructor reported that during an aerobatic training sortie the elevator control became restricted; a successful landing was carried out. A foreign object was later found lodged against the elevator control stop.

### Additional information

The original report noted that the origin of the foreign object, a metal ring, and how it entered the aircraft

could not be determined. Further investigation by the flying club has identified that the metal ring was from the aircraft's door emergency release pull. The ring has been replaced and an additional lanyard added to restrain it should it become detached again.