BMAA Inspectorate Notice: Lithium Batteries

Dated: 06/11/2014

Please find below a technical message from the BMAA CTO on the subject of Lithium batteries:

Dear All,

IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION – Lithium batteries

We receive the occasional report of owners replacing lead-acid batteries with lithium batteries without approval. Although a lithium battery can be an excellent way of saving weight, the wrong battery – or the wrong installation – can be a fire or explosion risk. Please be aware therefore that fitting a lithium battery to a BMAA Microlight requires approval.

Notes:

- A number of Microlight manufacturers have lithium battery fitments approved for their types – either as an approved option or as original fitment. The lithium battery must be the make and model specified in the approval. Approved options are not transferrable to other makes and models of aircraft (although the make and model of battery is likely to be acceptable for fitment to other aircraft).

- It can be very straightforward to get individual approval to replace an existing lead-acid starting battery with a lithium-iron-phosphate (LiFePO4) battery. The thing to look out for is a LiFePO4 battery with UN DOT 38.3 certification. Fitment of such batteries will normally be approved as a BMAA Minor Modification (usually only £15 or £30). It is important to get approval in principle from the BMAA before purchasing the battery.

Ben Syson
BMAA CTO

If you have any questions or require any assistance please feel free to contact the BMAA Tech Office.

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