



**SI 2011/2**

**SERVICE INFORMATION**  
to all distributors, owners

**Water Radiator Winterization**

**INFORMATION / RECOMMENDATION**

Please pay attention to the following safety definitions used in this service information:

**WARNING!** Disregarding the following instruction leads to severe deterioration of flight safety and hazardous situations, including such resulting in serious injury and loss of life.

**CAUTION!** Disregarding the following instruction leads to serious deterioration of flight safety, may cause serious damage to the aircraft and suspend warranty.

**Applies to all Pipistrel ALPHA, Sinus, Virus and Virus SW aircraft**

Distributors are to translate this service information into their native language and forward it to all customers as soon as possible

**Please see following page(s) for further details.**

# Cold Weather Measures: Winterizing Your Water Radiator

During the colder months of the year, the water radiators installed on all ALPHA, Sinus, Virus and Virus SW aircraft tend to be a little TOO efficient. The air flowing through the radiator overcools the water and, essentially, results in an overcooled engine. Don't be alarmed! This won't cause any damage to your engine, nor will your safety be compromised. What WILL be compromised, however, is the windshield defogger and the cabin heating. These two systems simply do not function as they should if warm air isn't being fed out of the back of the water radiator, as is the case in winter.

That being said, all ALPHA, Sinus, Virus and Virus SW customers must "winterize" their water radiators in order to avoid "icy" conditions in the cabin.

**NOTE:** When using Rotax engines, there is no minimum CHT. Moreover, the coloured bars that indicate CHT levels on aircraft instrumentation tend to turn "dangerously" red at different temperatures, depending on the instrument manufacturer. Therefore, Pipistrel customers should, by no means, be worried if their instrumentation indicates low CHTs. This will not cause any damage to the engine or put the pilot in harm's way.

## Actions

Winterizing your water radiator is simple. It simply involves covering it's front surface, to make it less efficient. Pipistrel recommends using some metallic tape, as seen in the photo below. Ideally, this tape should be 50 mm (2") wide.



Simply cover the front surface of the water radiator as seen in the photos below. Start with one strip and see how it affects the defogger and cabin heating. We here at Pipistrel have seen CHT increases of 10-15 degrees Celsius for each strip used. If your not satisfied with the results, just add another strip and try again.



## Distributors

As a distributor you are kindly asked to assist your clients should they require/wish to winterize their water radiator.

**Pipistrel d.o.o. Ajdovscina**  
**Leon Breclj, Head of Service**

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**THIS IS THE END OF THE SERVICE INFORMATION.**