SUBJECT: Inspection of oil gauge rod and cap assemblies, P/N 652171-22 and P/N 652171-27.

PURPOSE: To visually inspect the P/N 652171-22 and P/N 652171-27 oil gauge rod and cap assemblies for the presence of a 90-degree twist.

COMPLIANCE: At next oil level inspection, no later than next 100 HR / Annual Inspection.

MODELS AFFECTED: IO-550-P model engines utilizing the affected part number oil gauge rod and cap assemblies.

A report from the field indicates that one P/N 652171-22 oil gauge rod and cap assembly (dipstick) was forced through the crankcase breather reference hole in the oil filler housing. This caused the oil gauge rod to be damaged by the crankshaft. Subsequent damage to the crankshaft then occurred.

WARNING
Incorrect installation of the oil gauge rod and cap assembly may cause breakage of the oil gauge rod and internal damage to the engine. Do not operate any engine with a damaged oil gauge rod until an internal engine examination is accomplished and any damage is repaired.

Inspection and Replacement Instructions:

1. Gain access to the oil gauge rod and cap assembly (dipstick) and remove it from the engine.
2. Visually inspect the oil gauge rod for a 90-degree twist beginning at 3.62" from the lower end of the oil gauge rod, reference Figure 1.
3. If a single twist is noted at this location or a double twist exists, no further action is required. Proceed to step 5.
4. If no twist is noted, a replacement P/N 652171-27 oil gauge rod and cap assembly must be installed. The oil gauge rod and cap assembly may remain in service until a replacement part is obtained by verifying that it is installed correctly with the oil gauge rod inserted properly into the oil filler housing.
5. Reinstall the oil gauge rod and cap assembly, taking care that the oil gauge rod is inserted properly into the oil filler housing assembly.
Warranty

TCM will provide a replacement oil gauge rod and cap assembly for those requiring replacement IAW this service bulletin for a period of six months from the date of issue of this service bulletin. Orders must be placed and a warranty claim filed with an authorized TCM distributor.