

Stinson 108's with Duplicate Serial Numbers
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By Larry Westin - August 1, 1998
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Serial numbers are critical to aircraft manufactures and those who own airplanes. Light aircraft manufactures use the serial number to identify each airplane produced along with the individual equipment included from the factory which makes each airplane unique. When problems occur it is the serial number which is the primary identification used to determine if a light aircraft is affected by a problem.

Researching the Stinson 108 reveals there were three different serial numbers each issued to two different airplanes.

Serial Number	Model	Registration	Current Aircraft Status
108-1	108	NX31519	1 st Prototype, Scrapped
108-1	108	NC87600	Unknown
108-2	108	NX51532	2 nd Prototype, Scrapped
108-2	108	NC87601	Active, oldest 108 flying
108-5001	108-3	NC4001C	Active
108-5001	108-5	N5576V	Aircraft destroyed, see below

Unable to determine why Stinson decided to issue two duplicate serial numbers. Chronology suggests that both serial numbers 1 and both serial numbers 2 were flying at the same time. This may account for the decision by Stinson to scrap both prototypes after only a relatively short life.

Veda N. Dyer, owner of Univair, registered Model 108-5, N5576V, serial number 108-5001, for certification in 1963. It appears that Univair choose what it thought was a high enough serial number to be well above any serial number of model 108 airplanes built by Stinson, but misjudged by some 260. Thus this 108-5001 is a different airplane from the original 108-5001, a model 108-3 manufactured by Stinson.

Bibliography for this article:

Serial number information about 108-1 and 108-2 came from FAA records and printed information from Univair. Status of 108-2 from the John Baker World Stinson Database.

My thanks to John Wegg, author of "General Dynamics Aircraft and their Predecessors," for providing the information about the Univair model 108-5, serial number 108-5001.

My thanks to Capt. Bill Frances at moongate@sympatico.ca for the update on the second serial number 108-5001 airplane.

If you have corrections or additional information about Stinson 108 serial numbers, please contact me.

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