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NATIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR AERONAUTICS

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A LABORATORY INVESTIGATION OF THE ICING CHARACTERISTICS OF THE

BENDIX-STROMBERG CARBURETOR MODEL PD-12F5 WITH THE

PRATT & WHITNEY R-1830-C4 INTERMEDIATE

REAR ENGINE SECTION



By Herman B. Galvin and Henry A. Essex

Aircraft Engine Research Laboratory Oleveland, Ohio To be returned to the files of the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics Washington, D. C.



WASHINGTON

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NATIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR AERONAUTICS

ADVANCE RESTRICTED REPORT

A LABORATORY INVESTIGATION OF THE ICING CHARACTERISTICS OF THE

BENDIX-STROMBERG CARBURETOR MODEL PD-12F5 WITH THE

PRATT & WHITNEY R-1830-C4 INTERMEDIATE

REAR ENGINE SECTION

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SUMMARY

Icing tests were made on a Bendix-Stromberg PD-12F5 carburetor mounted on a Pratt & Whitney R-1830-C4 intermediate rear engine section. Limiting-icing conditions were established for simulated cruising power and for simulated rated power over a range of carburetor-air temperatures from 20° F to 95° F, relative humidities from 19 to 100 percent, and rates of water injection simulating ingested rain from 0 to 1500 grams per minute.

The criterion of icing affecting engine operation was chosen as a drop in air flow of 50 pounds per hour. For tests made at simulated cruising power, the maximum temperature at which icing affecting engine operation occurred was 66° F and the minimum relative humidity was 44 percent. The maximum temperature and the minimum relative humidity for which visible icing would occur are estimated to be 102° F and 21 percent, respectively. Much of the ice forming at relative humidities below 100 percent occurred on the throttle plates. The formations were particularly unstable in localities where the heat transfer from the outer carburetor walls was good. When water in excess of saturation was injected upstream of the carburetor, the resulting ice formations occurred on the X-bar extending across the barrels of the carburetor and on the turning vanes at the entrance to the supercharger impeller.

The results of the simulated rated-power runs indicated that icing affecting engine operation occurred at a maximum temperature of 73° F and only at moisture contents in excess of saturation. The maximum temperature at which icing was observed was 75° F.

Recommendations have been made for alleviating the seriousness of icing in induction systems.

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INTRODUCTION

This report is the third in a series of three covering the results of a laboratory investigation of the icing and de-icing characteristics of a Pratt & Whitney R-1830-C4 engine induction system. The research reported herein was carried out by the NACA at the National Bureau of Standards in December 1943 and January 1944.

The first report (reference 1) deals with the determination of limiting icing conditions and research on heated-air do-icing for the induction system, which included a Chandler-Evans 1900 CPB-3 carburetor mounted on an R-1830-C4 intermediate rear engine section. The second report (reference 2) covers results of a program to determine the most effective rate and method of injection of de-icing fluid to remove a heavy ice formation from the induction system.

The present report presents the results of research to determine the icing characteristics of the induction system including the Bendix-Stromberg PD-12F5 carburetor.

Three types of icing commonly encountered in carburetors are "throttling icing" caused by the pseudoadiabatic expansion of the carburetor air in the metering venturis and through the throttle openings, "fuel-evaporation icing" caused by cooling resulting from the vaporization of the fuel, and-"impact icing" caused by free water striking the induction-system surfaces and freezing there when the intake-air temperature is below 32° F.

Only throttling icing and fuel-evaporation icing were produced during this series of tests. The limits of carburetor-air temperature and moisture content for the formation of these types of ice were determined for simulated cruising and rated-power conditions of engine operation over a range of carburetor-air temperatures from 20° F to 95° F, relative humidities from 19 to 100 percent, and rates of water injection from 0 to 1500 grams per minute simulating flight through rain. Pressure altitudes obtained during the tests varied from 750 to 2700 feet.

Acknowledgement is made to manufacturers whose products were used in these tests for their cooperation in supplying parts and service.

DESCRIPTION OF APPARATUS

The apparatus used in the icing tests of the Bendix-Stromberg carburetor was the same as that used in previous icing tests and is described in reference 1. A schematic diagram of the test setup with the Bendix-Stromberg carburetor in place is shown in figure 1. Some features in the configuration of the Bendix-Stromberg PD-12F5 carburetor that affect the icing characteristics of this carburetor-engine combination are as follows: The carburetor has two venturi-shaped barrels, each with a butterfly throttle at the bottom. The throttles are mounted on a common shaft. Metering control is obtained from pressure differentials developed between a small boost venturi and a set of impact tubes above each barrel. Fuel is injected into the air stream from several orifices in a nozzle protruding downward from the center of the bottom of the carburetor body. Two arms extend radially from the base of the fuel nozzle across the exits of each carburetor barrel in such a way that they form an X across the engine-air passage.

A special nonleaded fuel with a 73-octane rating was used in these tests. Figure 3 of reference 1 shows the volatility curve for this grade of fuel as compared with that of 28-R fuel (AN-F-28, Amendment-2, grade 100/130), which is representative of fuels in current use by the military services. The 73-octane fuel is more volatile than standard aviation fuels and hence may tend to aggravate the icing characteristics of the induction system.

TEST PROCEDURE

The procedure used in this research was similar to that used in the icing investigation reported in reference 1. The desired air flow was obtained by positioning the throttle and operating a variable bleed in the exhaust line to give the carburetor pressure drops required (as determined from air-box calibration data furnished by the manufacturer) for the chosen air flow. The desired conditions of temperature and humidity were then established. The mixture control of the carburetor was set at automatic lean for the simulated cruising tests and at automatic rich for the simulated rated-power tests. After the mixture control had been set, the fuel was turned on long enough to check the fuel-air ratio against the carburetor calibration curve (fig. 2), then turned off, and the induction system examined for ice formations. When it had been determined that no ice was present in the induction system, the fuel and the free water were simultaneously turned on and the timing was started.

Readings of air flow, fuel flow, duct pressure, compensated carburetor metering-suction differential pressure, and carburetor pressure drop were taken at 3-minute intervals for a period of 15 minutes during the cruising runs and at 1-minute intervals for a period of 5 minutes during the rated-power runs. The rangespon conditions used in these tests are shown in the following table:

			-	-	Range or con	f moisture? itent	
Series	Power condi- tion	Initial air flow (lb/hr)	Mixture setting	Temper- ature range (°F)	Relative humidity (percent)	Water in excess of saturation ^a (grams/min)	Length of run (min)
A	Cruis- ing	4000	Auto- matic	20-95	19-100	0–1500	15
В	Rated	7000	lean Auto- matic rich	26-76	92-100	0–1000	5

^aFree water was injected in excess of saturation to simulate flight in rainfall and should not be confused with free-water injection to increase engine power.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

<u>Classification and nature of ice formations.</u> - The test results obtained were classified in three categories: no visible icing, visible icing, and icing affecting engine operation. When no ice was visible anywhere in the induction system after the period of the test, the run was classified as having no visible icing. If ice was seen but if the formation caused a drop in air flow of less than 50 pounds per hour, the icing was called visible icing. An ice formation large enough to cause a drop in air flow of 50 pounds per hour or more was designated icing affecting engine operation.

Classification of the icing according to its effect does not take into consideration the type, the size, or the location of the ice formation. The small mass of ice protruding from the edge of the throttle plates (see fig. 3) after run 12 of series A (cruising power) reduced the air flow by 200 pounds per hour. The much larger ice formation (see fig. 4) caused by fuel evaporation in run 71 of series A had no effect on air flow. A formation like that shown in figure 4 may have some effect on engine operation by disturbing the mixture distribution but, because variations in mixture distribution could not be measured in any way, icing has been classified only with respect to the effect on mass air flow.

Limiting icing conditions at simulated cruising power. - The results of the tests made at simulated cruising-power conditions are shown in table 1 and are plotted in figures 5 and 6. The lines representing the limit of icing affecting engine operation and the limit

of visible icing have been faired in on figure 5, then transformed to coordinates of air temperature and water content, and drawn on figure 6 where they are shown with red bands designating the estimated variation in the limits. This procedure was adopted in determining the limits of the regions of visible icing and icing affecting engine operation because, when the data were plotted with enthalpy and water content as the coordinates (fig. 5), it was believed that greater accuracy in fairing the limits could be obtained.

The results shown in figure 5 indicate that, as the moisture content of the air increased, the heat content (enthalpy) of the air at which icing affecting engine operation occurred increased to a value of about 23 Btu per pound of air, where it remained constant until the water content of the air reached saturation. The icing that took place at conditions in the area enclosed beneath this portion of the curve and the line of 100-percent relative humidity occurred chiefly on the throttles. A typical example of this type of icing, which probably formed when the water vapor in the air stream condensed as the air expanded pseudoadiabatically through the boost venturi and the venturi section of the carburetor, is shown in figure 3. The condensate froze when it struck the throttles and the other metal surfaces of the lower section of the carburetor that had been cooled by the backflow of evaporating fuel and by the adiabatic expansion of the air through the throttles. The location of the auxiliary venturi in relation to the throttle plate is believed to be responsible for the amount of condensate striking it and hence aggravated icing of the throttles.

When the moisture content was increased above 0.009 pound per pound of dry air, the upper limit of enthalpy for icing affecting engine operation increased to about 29 Btu per pound of air and then more slowly to about 35 Btu per pound of air as the water content increased to about 0.060 pound per pound of air. The predominating ice formations occurred on the turning vanes and the X-bar below the carburetor. This icing was probably caused by the refrigerating effect of evaporating fuel. Ice formations of the type that occurred at high rates of free-water injection are shown in figure 7.

The limit of visible icing as shown in figure 5 increased to higher enthalpy values with increasing water content and reached a maximum value of about 53 Btu per pound of air at a water content of 0.040 pound per pound of dry air.

Reference to figure 6 shows that the upper limit of carburetorair temperature for which icing affecting engine operation occurred increased from about 25° F at a relative humidity of 90 percent to about 66° F at a relative humidity of about 44 percent. As the relative humidity increased to about 100 percent, the temperature limit dropped to about 56° F and then increased to about 65° F as free water was injected into the duct above the carburetor to simulate flight through rain.

Figure 6 also shows that the upper temperature limit of visible icing increased from a temperature of 25° F at a relative humidity of about 44 percent and reached a maximum value of about 102° F at a relative humidity of about 30 percent. As the relative humidity was increased to 100 percent, the upper temperature limit of visible icing fell to about 86° F and then decreased slowly as free water was injected.

It was noted during the simulated cruising-power runs that ice would form on the tops of the throttle plates and then, as the test proceeded, gradually melt away from the areas closest to the outer throttle-shaft bearings. This phenomenon was probably caused by heat conduction from the outside of the carburetor along the throttle shaft.

Limiting icing conditions at simulated rated power. - The results of the tests made at simulated rated power are shown in table 2 and are plotted in figure 8. For this condition of engine operation, icing affecting engine operation occurred at carburetor-air temperatures up to about 73° F but only for moisture contents in excess of saturation.

The maximum temperature at which visible icing occurred was 75° F. It should be noted that this temperature is only 2° F higher than that at which icing affecting engine operation could occur. Tests to determine the complete limits of visible icing were not made because the required conditions of carburetor-air temperature and humidity could not be obtained with the apparatus available.

Effect of threttle setting on limiting icing conditions. - Figure 9 shows the limits of icing affecting engine operation for both simulated cruising-power and rated-power conditions. The chief difference between these limits is that, for the rated-power tests, no icing affecting engine operation could be produced below saturation at any carburetor-air temperature investigated. One explanation for the nonoccurrence of such ice lies in the fact that, during the rated-power runs, the throttles were almost completely open, which eliminated the attendant adiabatic expansion together with the subsequent cooling of the metal carburetor parts below the throttles. Furthermore, the backflow of evaporating fuel caused by a stalled condition of the downstream side of the throttles was greatly reduced. Any condensate formed as a result of pseudoadiabatic expansion through the boost and the barrel venturis would therefore not freeze.

It can be seen that the maximum temperature at which icing affecting engine operation occurred is about 8° F higher for the rated-power runs than for the cruising-power runs. No explanation for this occurrence can be given at present.

Effect of icing on fuel-air ratio. - In most of the icing tests, the fuel-air ratio varied by not more than 3 percent from the values given in the carburetor calibration curve (fig. 2); however, several tests were made in which a variation of 4 percent occurred.

SUMMARY OF RESULTS

The following results obtained from these tests are applicable only to the Bendix-Stromberg PD-12F5 carburetor mounted on a Pratt & Whitney R-1830-C4 intermediate rear engine section over the range of variables tested and are believed to be conservative because the criterion of icing affecting engine operation was chosen as a reduction in air flow of only 50 pounds per hour:

1. The upper limit of carburetor-air temperature for icing affecting engine operation within 15 minutes at simulated cruising power was about 66° F.

2. For the range of temperatures investigated, the lower limit of relative humidity for icing affecting engine operation within 15 minutes at simulated cruising power was found to be about 44 percent.

3. For cruising-power conditions, the upper temperature limit of visible icing was estimated to occur at 102° F; the lower limit of relative humidity occurred at about 21 percent.

4. For 5 minutes of operation at simulated rated power, icing affecting engine operation occurred at a maximum carburetor-air temperature of 73° F and only at moisture contents in excess of saturation.

5. The maximum temperature at which icing was observed during simulated rated-power operation was $75^{\circ}\ F$.

6. The fuel-air ratio generally varied by not more than 3 percent from the values given by the carburetor calibration curve during all the icing tests.

7. Icing that took place during the simulated cruising-power tests at relative humidities below 100 percent usually formed on the

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8. For moisture contents in excess of saturation, icing occurred on the carburetor X-bar and on the turning vanes in the supercharger-impeller entrance.

RECOMMENDATIONS

From the results of these tests and those of references 1, 2, and 3, certain characteristics common to all the induction systems tested have been shown to be contributing factors to the icing problem. Some recommendations to alleviate the seriousness of the problem are as follows:

1. The injection of free water into the carburetor-air passage to simulate flight through rain has been shown to affect the icing characteristics of induction systems adversely. Carburetor rammingair intakes and internal air passages should be so designed as to exclude any rain from entering with the induction air.

2. Some configurations of auxiliary venturi, throttle plate, and fuel nozzle have-been shown to lead to serious icing. The fuel nozzle should be redesigned, or moved as far downstream from the throttle plate as possible, to prevent the cooling of the plate by evaporating fuel eddying back in its wake. In the event that turning vanes are present in the supercharger-impeller entrance, fuel should be injected downstream of such vanes and the spray so directed that any possibility of splash or backflow would be eliminated. In this connection, a throttling device may be located elsewhere in the induction system than in the carburetor body.

3. The presence in the induction system of obstructions such as X-bars, turning vanes, and thermometer bulbs increases the icing hazard by permitting the accumulation of ice on them and, in some cases, by increasing the turbulence of the evaporating fuel-air mixture and allowing it to strike the metal surfaces in the system and cool them below the freezing point. An ideal induction system should have no obstructions or protuberances and should have an expanding section below the point of fuel injection to allow any ice formed to pass through freely and also to decrease turbulence.

4. Application of heat to the carburgtor body and throttles would prevent much of the icing occurring on these parts.

5. In flight, the engine should be operated with as large a throttle opening as possible whenever a choice exists as to means of obtaining the required power.

Aircraft Engine Research Laboratory, National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics, Cleveland, Ohio, November 20, 1944.

REFERENCES

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- Galvin, Herman B., and Essex, Henry A.: Fluid De-Icing Tests on a Chandler-Evans 1900 CPB-3 Carburetor Mounted on a Pratt & Whitney R-1830-C4 Intermediate Rear Engine Section. NACA ARR No. E4J06, 1944.
- 3. Kimball, Leo B.: Icing Tests of Aircraft-Engine Induction Systems. NACA ARR, Jan. 1943.

TABLE 1. - RESULTS OF LIMITING-ICING-CONDITION TESTS OF BENDIX-STROMBERG PD-12F5 CARBURETOR WITH

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<u>2</u> 7	elative midity	Water in excess of	content		(/ατ)	(/ (at)			
	(per- cent)	saturation (grams/min)	dry air)						
	96	0	0.01798	37.51	3980	3980	0.063	0.065	2
	1 TT	0	.00765	26.37	1,000	3980	.068	•066	2
	113	C	.00890	28.48	3990	3990	.067	•066	2
	37.5	0	.00912	29.96	3980	3960	.067	.066	2
	34	0	.00913	30.73	3970	3970	.067	. 065	2
	29	0	.00892	31.51	3950	3950	.068	. 067	2
	776	0	·02/120	36.60	14000	1000	.067	.065	2
	92	0	-02147	12.51	14030	4030	.067	.065	2
	85 29	0	• 02459	43.05	1,000	11000	•:066	•064	ξ
	JOOL	0	.02629	49.24	3970	3970	.066	• 064	2
	100	0	.02810	51.74	3980	3980	.067	-064	ĸ
	87	0	.00218	7.80	4030	0101		. 065	€1
	100	200	.03381	51.53	3990	3990	.067	002	N
	100	300	.03810	53.42	3970	3970	•066	• 066	ξ
	100	, 500	·04385	53.27	3970	3970	.067	.065	Ś
	100	600	. oli 528	51-39	14000	1000	• 066	.066	r
	100	550	- 04193	148.77	1010	4.010	• 066	.056	2
	100	100	. 03782	49.10	14000	1000	. 068	.066	2
	100	800	.05092	51.31	14020	4020	•066	.066	2
	. 00I	900	.05593	54.22	1,020	3990	.068	•056	ξ
	66.5	0	.02371	149.24	3980	3980	• 066	-190	б
	65	0	.02005	43.51	4020	3980	.067	• 065	S

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for Aeronautics

TABLE 2. - RESULTS OF LIMITING-ICING-CONDITION TESTS OF BENDIX-STROMBERG FD-12F5 CARBURETOR WITH

PRATT & WHITNEY R-1830-C4 INTERMEDIATE REAR ENGINE SECTION AT SIMULATED RATED POWER

[Series B; length of run, 5 min]

ffecta		20	∾ -	łł	7	۲	0	2	Ч	2	гH	б	r-l	ξ	1	7	5	Ч	3	, r-4	2	
Fuel-air ratio	Final	260.0	060.	001.	.095	-094	.098	.099	.099	.099	.098	660.	.097	.098	-097	-097	.098	.098	.099	.098	160.	
	Initial	0.096	-095 -097	101.	760.	.901.	.099	.098	.096	- 097	1 260.	760.	760.	.096	.096	.096	760.	790.	-097	.097	-097	
Air flow	Minimum (1b/hr)	0002	6900 6890	6690	5830	5960	7000	6970	0069	6980	6810	6950	6620	6980	6640	6780	6980	6850	6960	6840	2000	e icing.
	Initial (lb/hr)	2000	000/	6920	6920	6990	7020	2000	6990	6990	2000	6950	6980	7000	6980	2010	2000	6980	6990	00:02	OTOL	visible
Enthalpy	(Btu/lb)	14.29	42.02 79.71	12.20	23.21	30.02	27.06	33.96	35.76	38.52	36.92	40.06	36.81	39.10	36.74	36.02	39:89	38.ltr	40.69	38.88	10.08	ng; 3, no
Carburetor air	Absolute moisture content (lb/lb of dry air)	0.00460	•00.00	.00431	.00957	.01353	44110.	.01574	.01726	11610.	.01937	.02319	.02352	•02754	.02768	.01877	.03226	.03300	.03702	.03581	.00313	isible ici
	re content Water in excess of saturation (grams/min)	0 (n ç	20	20	20	0	0	20	20	100	200	350	500	009	100	750	850	1000	1000	0	ration; 2, v
	Moistur Relative humidity (per- cent)	92		100	100	100	100	100	100	001	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	ngine ope
	Wet- bulb temper- ature (^O F)	8 0	ਨੂ <u>ਪ</u>	22	<u>у</u> У	65	61	20	72	75	73	76	72	74	71	72	, 74	72	1 74	72	28	cecting e
	Dry- bulb temper- ature (^o F)	39	л Г Г	33	у УУ	65 65	61	02	72	75	73	76	72	74	12	72	74	72	74	72	28	.cing af1
Run		200	202	203	204	205	206	207	203	209	210	211	212	213	214	215	216	217	218	219	220	al, i

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Fig.

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Fig. 2

Fig. 3,4



Figure 3. - Icing affecting engine operation at cruising power. Run 12; bottom view of Bendix-Stromberg PD-12F5 carburetor; carburetor-air temperature, 40° F; relative humidity, 84 percent; initial air flow, 4030 pounds per hour.



Figure 4. - Visible icing at cruising power. Run 71, bottom view of Bendix-Stromberg PD-12F5 carburetor; carburetor-air temperature, 66° F; water-injection rate, 500 grams per minute; initial air flow, 3990 pounds per hour.



Fig. 5

2



Fig. 6

Fig. 7a,b



 (a) Bottom view of carburetor showing ice formations on X-bar.



(b) Ice formations in engine air passage.

Figure 7. - Evaporation icing affecting engine operation at cruising power. Run 99; Bendix-Stromberg PD-12F5 carburetor; carburetor-air temperature 40° F; water-injection rate, 500 grams per minute; initial air flow, 4000 pounds per hour.

00τ. 060 • Bendix-Stromberg carburetor, model operation 080. PD-12F5, with Pratt and Whitney R-1830-C4 intermediate rear engine section, series B. Initial conditions: air flow, 7000 pounds per hour; fuel-air ratio, 0.100. A red band designates the 040 •0 090 * engine 020 070 D. affecting lcing 009 242 020, 220 d visible 0007 x Icing 008 **H**• 020 ××× No 009 UT WE S content, 1b/1b dry Figure 8.- Limiting icing conditions at simulated rated power. 885 FT 1012 ODE 000 - 000 - 000 - 000 οτο لهرُ 600 ðð. 800 , ود. 005 ود. 007 ð, Ş ठ्ठ O Visible icing X Icing affecting sengine operation ——Limit of icing affecting engine, operation '900 ° d a ₽00 **•** 3403400 . Þe -133107 HPHL @4 7507 64 Ъ 200 ' visible icing 200 · N0 по× τ00 ' 90 50 30 02 60 40 80 Carburetor-air temperature, ¶°

Fig. .8

estimated variation in limiting conditions.





Fig.

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