



These three letters really mean something when it comes to repairing or replacing parts on your aircraft: **OEM**.

They stand for “**Original Equipment Manufacturer**” and are important to remember when purchasing replacement components for your aircraft.

Original Equipment Manufacturer parts are those manufactured and specified by the same company that created the aircraft that you’re looking to repair. Does it really make a difference which company manufactures the parts? That answer is **YES!**

Parts created by the original manufacturer are designed to fit the parts they’re replacing, in every sense of the word “fit.” That means serving the same exact purpose as the original part when the aircraft was tested and certificated.

The parts inside and outside of your aircraft are designed to be functional. OEM parts fit the original space exactly as they should. Here are six reasons why you should use OEM parts, whether for your aircraft, washing machine or car:

1. OEM parts offer apples-to-apples performance.

The whole point of OEM parts is that they are literally designed to serve the purpose they’re serving on that aircraft. With precise in-house manufacturing to the exact specifications of the original part — in fact, an exact copy of the original part — you can be assured that your aircraft will continue to function as it should.

2. Aftermarket parts are a roll of the dice.

Replacement parts that aren’t created or supplied by the original equipment manufacturer are generally referred to as “aftermarket.” Fitting non-OEM parts to your aircraft without the relevant paperwork and approvals could invalidate your Permit to fly or Certificate of Airworthiness and most importantly also invalidate your insurance. That means uncertainty can accompany any aftermarket part. And uncertainty is not what you want when you’re 10,000 feet up in the air.

3. Non-OEM parts can impact performance.

Non-OEM parts can miss the mark in a variety of ways that can impact performance. Without the same fit, form, or function, parts can negatively affect aircraft performance and durability.

In the aviation world, this means an unacceptable compromise to safety, poor performance and longer-term additional expense required for maintenance and/or repair.

4. OEM parts have higher standards.

The same engineers responsible for the aircraft design are involved in the design specification of the OEM parts that make them perform as they should with safety and reliability.

5. OEM parts extend your aircrafts life.

The reason why OEM parts are so trusted is that they are designed and specified by the aircraft designer/manufacturer and because of that, aircraft function better for longer when using them, Genuine parts, are proven to offer long-lasting performance benefits, lower lifecycle costs and keep the highest residual value for your aircraft. Keeping that in mind makes the choice a little easier.

6. OEM parts just feel right.

This might sound unscientific, but it's actually important. OEM parts offer the right feel for your aircraft. Non-OEM parts may sometimes feel like a square peg in a round hole. OEM parts just sound and feel right, where non-OEM parts can be accompanied by poor performance, rapid wear and lead to critical safety issues.

When it's time for you to choose repair or replacement parts in the future, keep these three little letters in mind. They have a big impact on safety, performance and residual value of your aircraft long into the future.