

§ 39.13 [Amended]

2. Section 39.13 is amended by removing Airworthiness Directive (AD) 97-15-13 R1, Amendment 39-10131, and by adding a new AD to read as follows:

Raytheon Aircraft Company (Type Certificate No. A24CE formerly held by the Beech Aircraft Corporation): Docket No. 98-CE-60-AD; Revises AD 97-15-13 R1, Amendment 39-10131.

Applicability: The following airplane models and serial numbers, certificated in any category:

| Model | Serial Nos. |
|---------------------|---|
| 1900 | UA-1 through UA-3. |
| 1900C | UB-1 through UB-74, and UC-1 through UC-174. |
| 1900C (C-12J) | UD-1 through UD-6. |
| 1900D | UE-1 through UE-157. |

Note 1: This AD applies to each airplane identified in the preceding applicability provision, regardless of whether it has been modified, altered, or repaired in the area subject to the requirements of this AD. For airplanes that have been modified, altered, or repaired so that the performance of the requirements of this AD is affected, the owner/operator must request approval for an alternative method of compliance in accordance with paragraph (d) of this AD. The request should include an assessment of the effect of the modification, alteration, or repair on the unsafe condition addressed by this AD; and, if the unsafe condition has not been eliminated, the request should include specific proposed actions to address it.

Compliance: Required within the next 200 hours time-in-service after September 27, 1997 (the effective date of AD 97-15-13 R1), unless already accomplished.

To prevent moisture from accumulating and freezing in the airstair door handle and latch housing, which could result in the door freezing shut and passengers not being able to evacuate the airplane in an emergency situation, accomplish the following:

(a) Install lubrication fittings in the airstair door handle and latch housing mechanisms in accordance with the ACCOMPLISHMENT INSTRUCTIONS section of either:

(1) Raytheon Mandatory Service Bulletin No. 2572, Issued: July, 1996; or

(2) Raytheon Mandatory Service Bulletin SB.2572, Issued: July, 1996; Revision No. 1, May, 1998.

(b) Special flight permits may be issued in accordance with sections 21.197 and 21.199 of the Federal Aviation Regulations (14 CFR 21.197 and 21.199) to operate the airplane to a location where the requirements of this AD can be accomplished.

(c) An alternative method of compliance or adjustment of the compliance time that provides an equivalent level of safety may be approved by the Manager, Wichita Aircraft Certification Office (ACO), 1801 Airport Road, Room 100, Mid-Continent Airport, Wichita, Kansas 67209.

(1) The request shall be forwarded through an appropriate FAA Maintenance Inspector,

who may add comments and then send it to the Manager, Wichita ACO.

(2) Alternative methods of compliance approved in accordance with AD 97-15-13 R1 are considered approved as alternative methods of compliance for this AD.

Note 2: Information concerning the existence of approved alternative methods of compliance with this AD, if any, may be obtained from the Wichita ACO.

(d) All persons affected by this directive may obtain copies of the documents referred to herein upon request to the Raytheon Aircraft Company, P.O. Box 85, Wichita, Kansas 67201-0085; or may examine these documents at the FAA, Central Region, Office of the Regional Counsel, Room 1558, 601 E. 12th Street, Kansas City, Missouri 64106.

(e) This amendment revises AD 97-15-13 R1, Amendment 39-10131.

Issued in Kansas City, Missouri, on October 1, 1998.

Michael Gallagher,

Manager, Small Airplane Directorate, Aircraft Certification Service.

[FR Doc. 98-27122 Filed 10-8-98; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Aviation Administration

14 CFR Part 39

[Docket No. 98-CE-89-AD]

RIN 2120-AA64

Airworthiness Directives; Twin Commander Aircraft Corporation Model 680FL Airplanes

AGENCY: Federal Aviation Administration, DOT.

ACTION: Notice of proposed rulemaking (NPRM).

SUMMARY: This document proposes to adopt a new airworthiness directive (AD) that would apply to Twin Commander Aircraft Corporation (Twin Commander) Model 680FL airplanes. The proposed AD would require revising the FAA-approved Airplane Flight Manual (AFM) to specify procedures that would prohibit flight in severe icing conditions (as determined by certain visual cues), limit or prohibit the use of various flight control devices while in severe icing conditions, and provide the flight crew with recognition cues for, and procedures for exiting from, severe icing conditions. The proposed AD is prompted by the results of a review of the requirements for certification of these airplanes in icing conditions, new information on the icing environment, and icing data provided currently to the flight crew. The actions specified by the proposed AD are intended to minimize the

potential hazards associated with operating these airplanes in severe icing conditions by providing more clearly defined procedures and limitations associated with such conditions.

DATES: Comments must be received on or before December 2, 1998.

ADDRESSES: Submit comments in triplicate to the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), Central Region, Office of the Regional Counsel, Attention: Rules Docket No. 98-CE-89-AD, Room 1558, 601 E. 12th Street, Kansas City, Missouri 64106. Comments may be inspected at this location between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m., Monday through Friday, holidays excepted.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. John P. Dow, Sr., Aerospace Engineer, FAA, Small Airplane Directorate, 1201 Walnut, suite 900, Kansas City, Missouri 64106; telephone: (816) 426-6932; facsimile: (816) 426-2169.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Comments Invited

Interested persons are invited to participate in the making of the proposed rule by submitting such written data, views, or arguments as they may desire. Communications should identify the Rules Docket number and be submitted in triplicate to the address specified above. All communications received on or before the closing date for comments, specified above, will be considered before taking action on the proposed rule. The proposals contained in this notice may be changed in light of the comments received.

Comments are specifically invited on the overall regulatory, economic, environmental, and energy aspects of the proposed rule. All comments submitted will be available, both before and after the closing date for comments, in the Rules Docket for examination by interested persons. A report that summarizes each FAA-public contact concerned with the substance of this proposal will be filed in the Rules Docket.

Commenters wishing the FAA to acknowledge receipt of their comments submitted in response to this notice must submit a self-addressed, stamped postcard on which the following statement is made: "Comments to Docket No. 98-CE-89-AD." The postcard will be date stamped and returned to the commenter.

Availability of NPRMs

Any person may obtain a copy of this NPRM by submitting a request to the FAA, Central Region, Office of the Regional Counsel, Attention: Rules

Docket No. 98-CE-89-AD, Room 1558, 601 E. 12th Street, Kansas City, Missouri 64106.

Discussion

In October 1994, a transport category airplane was involved in an accident in which severe icing conditions (believed to be composed of freezing drizzle or supercooled large droplets (SLD)) were reported in the area. Loss of control of the airplane may have occurred because ice accretion on the upper surface of the wing aft of the area protected by the ice protection system caused airflow separation, which resulted in the ailerons being forced to a right-wing-down control position. There also is concern that the autopilot, which was engaged, may have masked the unusual control forces generated by the ice accumulation. These conditions, if not corrected, could result in a roll upset from which the flight crew may be unable to recover.

The atmospheric conditions (freezing drizzle or SLD conditions) that may have contributed to the accident are outside the icing envelope specified in Appendix C of part 25 of the Federal Aviation Regulations (14 CFR part 25) for certification of the airplane. Such

icing conditions are not defined in Appendix C, and the FAA has not required that airplanes be shown to be capable of operating safely in those icing conditions.

The FAA finds that flight crews are not currently provided with adequate information necessary to determine when the airplane is operating in icing conditions for which the airplane is not certificated or what action to take when such conditions are encountered. Therefore, the FAA has determined that flight crews must be provided with such information and must be made aware of certain visual cues that may indicate the airplane is operating in atmospheric conditions that are outside the icing envelope.

Since such information is not available to flight crews, and no airplane is certificated for operation in severe icing conditions, such as freezing drizzle or SLD conditions, the FAA finds that the potentially unsafe condition (described previously as control difficulties following operation of the airplane in icing conditions outside the icing envelope) is not limited to airplanes having the same type design as that of the accident airplane.

The FAA recognizes that the flight crew of any airplane that is certificated for flight in icing conditions may not have adequate information concerning icing conditions outside the icing envelope. However, in 1996, the FAA found that the specified unsafe condition must be addressed as a higher priority on airplanes equipped with unpowered roll control systems and pneumatic de-icing boots. These airplanes were addressed first because the flight crew of an airplane having an unpowered roll control system must rely solely on physical strength to counteract roll control anomalies, whereas a roll control anomaly that occurs on an airplane having a powered roll control system need not be offset directly by the flight crew. The FAA also placed a priority on airplanes that are used in regularly scheduled passenger service. The FAA issued the following airworthiness directives (AD's) that addressed airplanes that met these criteria. These AD's identified visual cues for recognizing severe icing conditions, procedures for exiting these conditions, and prohibitions on the use of various flight control devices. These AD's consisted of the following airplane models.

| Docket No. | Manufacturer/airplane model | Federal Register citation |
|--------------------|--|---------------------------|
| 96-CE-01-AD | de Havilland DHC-6 Series | 61 FR 2175 |
| 96-CE-02-AD | EMBRAER EMB-110P1/EMB-110P2 | 61 FR 2183 |
| 96-CE-03-AD | Beech 99/200/1900 Series | 61 FR 2180 |
| 96-CE-04-AD | Dornier 228 Series | 61 FR 2172 |
| 96-CE-05-AD | Cessna 208/208B | 61 FR 2178 |
| 96-CE-06-AD | Fairchild Aircraft SA226/SA227 Series | 61 FR 2189 |
| 96-CE-07-AD | Jetstream 3101/3201 | 61 FR 2186 |
| 96-NM-13-AD | Jetstream BAe ATP | 61 FR 2144 |
| 96-NM-14-AD | Jetstream 4101 | 61 FR 2142 |
| 96-NM-15-AD | British Aerospace HS 748 Series | 61 FR 2139 |
| 96-NM-16-AD | Saab SF340A/SAAB 340B/SAAB 2000 Series | 61 FR 2169 |
| 96-NM-17-AD | CASA C-212/CN-235 Series | 61 FR 2166 |
| 96-NM-18-AD | Dornier 328-100 Series | 61 FR 2157 |
| 96-NM-19-AD | EMBRAER EMB-120 Series | 61 FR 2163 |
| 96-NM-20-AD | de Havilland DHC-7/DHC-8 Series | 61 FR 2154 |
| 96-NM-21-AD | Fokker F27 Mark 100/200/300/400/500/600/700/050 Series | 61 FR 2160 |
| 96-NM-22-AD | Short Brothers SD3-30/SD3-60/SD3-SHERPA Series | 61 FR 2151 |
| 95-NM-146-AD | Aerospatiale ATR-42/ATR-72 Series | 61 FR 2147 |

Since issuance of those AD's, the FAA has determined that similar AD's should be issued for similarly equipped airplanes that are not used in regularly scheduled passenger service. Like the AD's written in 1996, these rules described below also provide visual cues for recognizing severe icing conditions, procedures for exiting these conditions, and prohibitions on the use of various flight control devices. These rules would apply to part 25 and certain part 23 airplanes that are equipped with unpowered aileron controls and pneumatic de-icing boots. The part 23 AD's address airplanes certificated in normal and utility categories (not used in agricultural operations) that are used in part 135 on-demand and air-taxi operation, and other airplanes regularly exposed to icing conditions. These rules affect the following airplanes.

| Airplane models | Docket No. |
|--|-------------|
| Aerospace Technologies of Australia Models N22B and N24A | 97-CE-49-AD |
| Harbin Aircraft Mfg. Corporation Model Y12 IV | 97-CE-50-AD |
| Partenavia Costruzioni Aeronauticas, S.p.A. Models P68, AP68TP 300, AP68TP 600 | 97-CE-51-AD |
| Pilatus Aircraft Ltd. Models PC-12 and PC-12/45 | 97-CE-53-AD |
| Pilatus Britten-Norman Ltd. Models BN-2A, BN-2B, and BN-2T | 97-CE-54-AD |

| Airplane models | Docket No. |
|--|--------------|
| SOCATA—Groupe Aerospatiale Model TBM-700 | 97-CE-55-AD |
| Aerostar Aircraft Corporation Models PA-60-600, -601, -601P, -602P, and -700P | 97-CE-56-AD |
| Twin Commander Aircraft Corporation Models 500, -500-A, -500-B, -500-S, -500-U, -520, -560, -560-A, -560-E, -560-F, -680, -680-E, -680FL(P), -680T, -680V, -680W, -681, -685, -690, -690A, -690B, -690C, -690D, -695, -695A, -695B, and 720. | 97-CE-57-AD |
| Raytheon Aircraft Company (formerly known as Beech Aircraft Corporation) Models E55, E55A, 58, 58A, 58P, 58PA, 58TC, 58TCA, 60 series, 65-B80 series, 65-B-90 series, 90 series, F90 series, 100 series, 300 series, and B300 series. | 97-CE-58-AD |
| Raytheon Aircraft Company (formerly known as Beech Aircraft Corporation) Model 2000 | 97-CE-59-AD |
| The New Piper Aircraft, Inc. Models PA-46-310P and PA-46-350P | 97-CE-60-AD |
| The New Piper Aircraft, Inc. Models PA-23, PA-23-160, PA-23-235, PA-23-250, PA-E23-250, PA-30, PA-39, PA-40, PA-31, PA-31-300, PA-31-325, PA-31-350, PA-34-200, PA-34-200T, PA-34-220T, PA-42, PA-42-720, PA-42-1000. | 97-CE-61-AD |
| Cessna Aircraft Company Models P210N, T210N, P210R, and 337 series | 97-CE-62-AD |
| Cessna Aircraft Company Models T303, 310R, T310R, 335, 340A, 402B, 402C, 404, F406, 414, 414A, 421B, 421C, 425, and 441. | 97-CE-63-AD |
| SIAl-Marchetti S.r.l. (Augusta) Models SF600 and SF600A | 97-CE-64-AD |
| Cessna Aircraft Company Models 500, 501, 550, 551, and 560 series | 97-NM-170-AD |
| Sabreliner Corporation Models 40, 60, 70, and 80 series | 97-NM-171-AD |
| Gulfstream Aerospace Model G-159 series | 97-NM-172-AD |
| McDonnell Douglas Models DC-3 and DC-4 series | 97-NM-173-AD |
| Mitsubishi Heavy Industries Model YS-11 and YS-11A series | 97-NM-174-AD |
| Frakes Aviation Model G-73 (Mallard) and G-73T series | 97-NM-175-AD |
| Fairchild Models F27 and FH227 series | 97-NM-176-AD |
| Lockheed Models | 97-NM-177-AD |

The FAA's Determination

Following examination of all relevant information, the FAA has determined that certain limitations and procedures should be included in the FAA-approved Airplane Flight Manual (AFM) for the affected airplanes as follows:

- All Twin Commander Model 680FL airplanes must be prohibited from flight in severe icing conditions (as determined by certain visual cues), and
- Flight crews must be provided with information that would minimize the potential hazards associated with operating the airplane in severe icing conditions.

The FAA has determined that such limitations and procedures currently are not defined adequately in the AFM for these airplanes.

Explanation of the Provisions of the Proposed AD

Since an unsafe condition has been identified in which an unrecoverable roll upset may occur, as a result of exposure to severe icing conditions that are outside the icing limits for which the airplanes were certificated, the proposed AD would require revising the Limitations Section of the FAA-approved AFM to specify procedures that would:

- Require flight crews to immediately request priority handling from Air Traffic Control to exit severe icing conditions (as determined by certain visual cues);
- Prohibit use of the autopilot when ice is formed aft of the protected

surfaces of the wing, or when an unusual lateral trim condition exists; and

- Require that all icing wing inspection lights be operative prior to flight into known or forecast icing conditions at night.

This proposed AD would also require revising the Normal Procedures Section of the FAA-approved AFM to specify procedures that would:

- Limit the use of the flaps and prohibit the use of the autopilot when ice is observed forming aft of the protected surfaces of the wing, or if unusual lateral trim requirements or autopilot trim warnings are encountered; and
- Provide the flight crew with recognition cues for, and procedures for exiting from, severe icing conditions.

Relationship of the Proposed AD With AD 98-20-34

AD 98-20-34, Amendment 39-10801 (63 FR 51520, September 28, 1998), currently requires the same actions as are proposed in this NPRM on Twin Commander Models 500, 500-A, 500-B, 500-S, 500-U, 520, 560, 560-A, 560-E, 560-F, 680, 680-E, 680FL(P), 680T, 680V, 680W, 681, 685, 690, 690A, 690B, 690C, 690D, 695, 695A, 695B, and 720 airplanes. The FAA inadvertently left the Model 680FL airplanes out of the Applicability of AD 98-20-34.

This NPRM proposes to require the same actions on the Model 680FL airplanes as are required by AD 98-20-34 for the Twin Commander Models 500, 500-A, 500-B, 500-S, 500-U, 520, 560, 560-A, 560-E, 560-F, 680, 680-E,

680FL(P), 680T, 680V, 680W, 681, 685, 690, 690A, 690B, 690C, 690D, 695, 695A, 695B, and 720 airplanes.

Cost Impact

The FAA estimates that 64 airplanes in the U.S. registry would be affected by the proposed AD, that it would take approximately 1 workhour per airplane to accomplish the proposed action, and that the average labor rate is approximately \$60 an hour. Since an owner/operator who holds at least a private pilot's certificate as authorized by §§ 43.7 and 43.9 of the Federal Aviation Regulations (14 CFR 47.7 and 43.9) can accomplish the proposed action, the only cost impact upon the public is the time it would take the affected airplane owners/operators to incorporate the proposed AFM revisions.

The cost impact figure discussed above is based on assumptions that no operator has yet accomplished any of the proposed requirements of this AD action, and that no operator would accomplish those actions in the future if this AD were not adopted.

In addition, the FAA recognizes that the proposed action may impose operational costs. However, these costs are incalculable because the frequency of occurrence of the specified conditions and the associated additional flight time cannot be determined. Nevertheless, because of the severity of the unsafe condition, the FAA has determined that continued operational safety necessitates the imposition of the costs.

Regulatory Impact

The regulations proposed herein would not have substantial direct effects on the States, on the relationship between the national government and the States, or on the distribution of power and responsibilities among the various levels of government. Therefore, in accordance with Executive Order 12612, it is determined that this proposal would not have sufficient federalism implications to warrant the preparation of a Federalism Assessment.

For the reasons discussed above, I certify that this action (1) is not a "significant regulatory action" under Executive Order 12866; (2) is not a "significant rule" under DOT Regulatory Policies and Procedures (44 FR 11034, February 26, 1979); and (3) if promulgated, will not have a significant economic impact, positive or negative, on a substantial number of small entities under the criteria of the Regulatory Flexibility Act. A copy of the draft regulatory evaluation prepared for this action has been placed in the Rules Docket. A copy of it may be obtained by contacting the Rules Docket at the location provided under the caption ADDRESSES.

List of Subjects in 14 CFR Part 39

Air transportation, Aircraft, Aviation safety, Safety.

The Proposed Amendment

Accordingly, pursuant to the authority delegated to me by the Administrator, the Federal Aviation Administration proposes to amend part 39 of the Federal Aviation Regulations (14 CFR part 39) as follows:

PART 39—AIRWORTHINESS DIRECTIVES

1. The authority citation for part 39 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 49 U.S.C. 106(g), 40113, 44701.

§ 39.13 [Amended]

2. Section 39.13 is amended by adding a new airworthiness directive (AD) to read as follows:

Twin Commander Aircraft Corporation:

Docket No. 98-CE-89-AD.

Applicability: Model 680FL airplanes (all serial numbers), certificated in any category.

Note 1: This AD applies to each airplane identified in the preceding applicability provision, regardless of whether it has been modified, altered, or repaired in the area subject to the requirements of this AD. For airplanes that have been modified, altered, or repaired so that the performance of the requirements of this AD is affected, the owner/operator must request approval for an alternative method of compliance in

accordance with paragraph (d) of this AD. The request should include an assessment of the effect of the modification, alteration, or repair on the unsafe condition addressed by this AD; and, if the unsafe condition has not been eliminated, the request should include specific proposed actions to address it.

Compliance: Required as indicated, unless already accomplished.

To minimize the potential hazards associated with operating the airplane in severe icing conditions by providing more clearly defined procedures and limitations associated with such conditions, accomplish the following:

(a) Within 30 days after the effective date of this AD, accomplish the requirements of paragraphs (a)(1) and (a)(2) of this AD.

Note 2: Operators should initiate action to notify and ensure that flight crewmembers are apprised of this change.

(1) Revise the FAA-approved Airplane Flight Manual (AFM) by incorporating the following into the Limitations Section of the AFM. This may be accomplished by inserting a copy of this AD in the AFM.

"WARNING

Severe icing may result from environmental conditions outside of those for which the airplane is certificated. Flight in freezing rain, freezing drizzle, or mixed icing conditions (supercooled liquid water and ice crystals) may result in ice build-up on protected surfaces exceeding the capability of the ice protection system, or may result in ice forming aft of the protected surfaces. This ice may not be shed using the ice protection systems, and may seriously degrade the performance and controllability of the airplane.

- During flight, severe icing conditions that exceed those for which the airplane is certificated shall be determined by the following visual cues. If one or more of these visual cues exists, immediately request priority handling from Air Traffic Control to facilitate a route or an altitude change to exit the icing conditions.

- Unusually extensive ice accumulation on the airframe and windshield in areas not normally observed to collect ice.

- Accumulation of ice on the lower surface of the wing aft of the protected area.

- Accumulation of ice on the engine nacelles and propeller spinners farther aft than normally observed.

- Since the autopilot, when installed and operating, may mask tactile cues that indicate adverse changes in handling characteristics, use of the autopilot is prohibited when any of the visual cues specified above exist, or when unusual lateral trim requirements or autopilot trim warnings are encountered while the airplane is in icing conditions.

- All wing icing inspection lights must be operative prior to flight into known or forecast icing conditions at night. [NOTE: This supersedes any relief provided by the Master Minimum Equipment List (M MEL).]"

(2) Revise the FAA-approved AFM by incorporating the following into the Normal Procedures Section of the AFM. This may be accomplished by inserting a copy of this AD in the AFM.

"THE FOLLOWING WEATHER CONDITIONS MAY BE CONDUCTIVE TO SEVERE IN-FLIGHT ICING:

- Visible rain at temperatures below 0 degrees Celsius ambient air temperature.
- Droplets that splash or splatter on impact at temperatures below 0 degrees Celsius ambient air temperature.

PROCEDURES FOR EXITING THE SEVERE ICING ENVIRONMENT:

These procedures are applicable to all flight phases from takeoff to landing. Monitor the ambient air temperature. While severe icing may form at temperatures as cold as -18 degrees Celsius, increased vigilance is warranted at temperatures around freezing with visible moisture present. If the visual cues specified in the Limitations Section of the AFM for identifying severe icing conditions are observed, accomplish the following:

- Immediately request priority handling from Air Traffic Control to facilitate a route or an altitude change to exit the severe icing conditions in order to avoid extended exposure to flight conditions more severe than those for which the airplane has been certificated.
- Avoid abrupt and excessive maneuvering that may exacerbate control difficulties.
- Do not engage the autopilot.
- If the autopilot is engaged, hold the control wheel firmly and disengage the autopilot.
- If an unusual roll response or uncommanded roll control movement is observed, reduce the angle-of-attack.
- Do not extend flaps when holding in icing conditions. Operation with flaps extended can result in a reduced wing angle-of-attack, with the possibility of ice forming on the upper surface further aft on the wing than normal, possibly aft of the protected area.
- If the flaps are extended, do not retract them until the airframe is clear of ice.
- Report these weather conditions to Air Traffic Control."

(b) Incorporating the AFM revisions, as required by this AD, may be performed by the owner/operator holding at least a private pilot certificate as authorized by § 43.7 of the Federal Aviation Regulations (14 CFR 43.7), and must be entered into the aircraft records showing compliance with this AD in accordance with § 43.9 of the Federal Aviation Regulations (14 CFR 43.9).

(c) Special flight permits may be issued in accordance with §§ 21.197 and 21.199 of the Federal Aviation Regulations (14 CFR 21.197 and 21.199) to operate the airplane to a location where the requirements of this AD can be accomplished.

(d) An alternative method of compliance or adjustment of the compliance time that provides an acceptable level of safety may be used if approved by the Manager, Small Airplane Directorate, FAA, 1201 Walnut, suite 900, Kansas City, Missouri 64106. The request shall be forwarded through an appropriate FAA Maintenance Inspector, who may add comments and then send it to the Manager, Small Airplane Directorate.

Note 3: Information concerning the existence of approved alternative methods of

compliance with this AD, if any, may be obtained from the Small Airplane Directorate.

(e) All persons affected by this directive may examine information related to this AD at the FAA, Central Region, Office of the Regional Counsel, Room 1558, 601 E. 12th Street, Kansas City, Missouri 64106.

Issued in Kansas City, Missouri, on October 5, 1998.

Marvin R. Nuss,

Acting Manager, Small Airplane Directorate, Aircraft Certification Service.

[FR Doc. 98-27193 Filed 10-8-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-13-U

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Aviation Administration

14 CFR Part 39

[Docket No. 98-CE-61-AD]

RIN 2120-AA64

Airworthiness Directives; Raytheon Aircraft Company 17, 18, 19, 23, 24, 33, 35, 36/A36, A36TC/B36TC, 45, 50, 55, 56, 58, 58P, 58TC, 60, 65, 70, 76, 77, 80, 88, and 95 Series Airplanes

AGENCY: Federal Aviation Administration, DOT.

ACTION: Notice of proposed rulemaking (NPRM).

SUMMARY: This document proposes to adopt a new airworthiness directive (AD) that would apply to certain Raytheon Aircraft Company (Raytheon) 17, 18, 19, 23, 24, 33, 35, 36/A36, A36TC/B36TC, 45, 50, 55, 56, 58, 58P, 58TC, 60, 65, 70, 76, 77, 80, 88, and 95 series airplanes. The proposed AD would require installing a placard on the fuel tank selector to warn of the no-flow condition that exists between the fuel tank detents. The proposed AD is the result of reports of engine stoppage on the affected airplanes where the cause was considered to be incorrect positioning of the fuel selector. The actions specified by the proposed AD are intended to help prevent a lack of fuel flow to the engine caused by incorrect positioning of the fuel selector, which could result in loss of engine power.

DATES: Comments must be received on or before December 18, 1998.

ADDRESSES: Submit comments in triplicate to the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), Central Region, Office of the Regional Counsel, Attention: Rules Docket No. 98-CE-61-AD, Room 1558, 601 E. 12th Street, Kansas City, Missouri 64106. Comments may be inspected at this location

between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m., Monday through Friday, holidays excepted.

Service information that applies to the proposed AD may be obtained from the Raytheon Aircraft Company, P.O. Box 85, Wichita, Kansas 67201-0085. This information also may be examined at the Rules Docket at the address above.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Randy Griffith, Aerospace Engineer, Wichita Aircraft Certification Office, FAA, 1801 Airport Road, Mid-Continent Airport, Wichita, Kansas 67209; telephone: (316) 946-4145; facsimile: (316) 946-4407.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Comments Invited

Interested persons are invited to participate in the making of the proposed rule by submitting such written data, views, or arguments as they may desire. Communications should identify the Rules Docket number and be submitted in triplicate to the address specified above. All communications received on or before the closing date for comments, specified above, will be considered before taking action on the proposed rule. The proposals contained in this notice may be changed in light of the comments received.

Comments are specifically invited on the overall regulatory, economic, environmental, and energy aspects of the proposed rule. All comments submitted will be available, both before and after the closing date for comments, in the Rules Docket for examination by interested persons. A report that summarizes each FAA-public contact concerned with the substance of this proposal will be filed in the Rules Docket.

Commenters wishing the FAA to acknowledge receipt of their comments submitted in response to this notice must submit a self-addressed, stamped postcard on which the following statement is made: "Comments to Docket No. 98-CE-61-AD." The postcard will be date stamped and returned to the commenter.

Availability of NPRMs

Any person may obtain a copy of this NPRM by submitting a request to the FAA, Central Region, Office of the Regional Counsel, Attention: Rules Docket No. 98-CE-61-AD, Room 1558, 601 E. 12th Street, Kansas City, Missouri 64106.

Discussion

The FAA has received several reports of engine stoppage on Raytheon 17, 18, 19, 23, 24, 33, 35, 36/A36, A36TC/B36TC, 45, 50, 55, 56, 58, 58P, 58TC, 60,

65, 70, 76, 77, 80, 88, and 95 series airplanes. These incidents are believed to be attributed to incorrect positioning of the fuel selector, e.g., fuel shutoff, cross-feed selector for twin engine aircraft, tank selector. No mechanism exists to prevent positioning of the selector between any selection and no warning light exists to warn the pilot of incorrect positioning.

With the selector positioned between a selection, a lack of fuel flow to the engine could result with consequent loss of engine power.

Relevant Service Information

Raytheon has issued Mandatory Service Bulletin (SB) No. 2670, Revision No. 1, dated May, 1998, which specifies procedures for installing a placard, part number 36-920059-1, on the fuel tank selector to warn of the no-flow condition that exists between the fuel tank detents.

The FAA's Determination

After examining the circumstances and reviewing all available information related to the incidents described above, including the above-referenced service information, the FAA has determined that AD action should be taken to prevent a lack of fuel flow to the engine caused by incorrect positioning of the fuel selector, which could result in loss of engine power.

Explanation of the Provisions of the Proposed AD

Since an unsafe condition has been identified that is likely to exist or develop in other Raytheon 17, 18, 19, 23, 24, 33, 35, 36/A36, A36TC/B36TC, 45, 50, 55, 56, 58, 58P, 58TC, 60, 65, 70, 76, 77, 80, 88, and 95 series airplanes of the same type design, the FAA is proposing AD action. The proposed AD would require installing a placard, part number 36-920059-1, on the fuel tank selector to warn of the no-flow condition that exists between the fuel tank detents. Accomplishment of the proposed installation would be in accordance with the service information previously referenced.

Cost Impact

The FAA estimates that 15,200 airplanes in the U.S. registry would be affected by the proposed AD. The placard that would be required for the proposed AD may be obtained through a Raytheon Aircraft Authorized Service Center at no cost to the owners/operators of the affected airplanes. Since an owner/operator who holds at least a private pilot's certificate as authorized by §§ 43.7 and 43.9 of the Federal Aviation Regulations (14 CFR 43.7 and