

regulatory evaluation prepared for this action is contained 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 the following new airworthiness directive:

Lockheed: Docket 98–NM–371–AD.

Applicability: Model 382 series airplanes as listed in paragraph 1.A.(1) (“Effectivity”) of Lockheed Hercules Alert Service Bulletin A382–53–57, Revision 1, dated January 30, 1997; 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 (c) 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 accomplished previously.

To prevent fatigue cracking of the fastener holes and adjacent fuselage structure due to installation of the incorrect sized fasteners, which could result in reduced structural integrity of the airplane, accomplish the following:

(a) Within 30 days after the effective date of this AD, perform a one-time visual inspection of the under floor to ring fittings at fuselage station 817E to verify installation of the correct sized fasteners, in accordance with Lockheed Hercules Alert Service Bulletin A382–53–57, Revision 1, dated January 30, 1997.

Note 2: Inspections, repairs, or replacements that have been accomplished prior to the effective date of this AD, in

accordance with Lockheed Hercules Alert Service Bulletin A382–53–57, dated January 16, 1997, are considered acceptable for compliance with the applicable action specified by this AD.

(1) If all fasteners are the correct size, no further action is required by this AD.

(2) If any fastener is determined to be the incorrect size, prior to further flight, measure the distance between the fastener centers in accordance with the alert service bulletin.

(i) If the distance between the fastener centers is less than 0.57 inch, prior to further flight, repair in accordance with a method approved by the Manager, Atlanta Aircraft Certification Office (ACO), FAA, Small Airplane Directorate.

(ii) If the distance between the fastener centers is greater than or equal to 0.57 inch, prior to further flight, accomplish the requirements of paragraph (b) of this AD.

(b) For all airplanes on which the distance between the fastener centers is greater than or equal to 0.57 inch: Prior to further flight, remove any incorrect sized fastener and perform a one-time visual inspection of the fastener holes and adjacent fuselage structure to detect discrepancies (damage, corrosion, or misdrilled or elongated fastener holes) in accordance Lockheed Hercules Alert Service Bulletin A382–53–57, Revision 1, January 30, 1997.

(1) If no discrepancy is detected, prior to further flight, redrill the fastener holes to the correct size and install correct sized fasteners in accordance with the alert service bulletin.

(2) If any discrepancy is detected, prior to further flight, redrill the fastener holes to the correct size and perform an additional one-time visual inspection of the redrilled holes to detect remaining discrepancies (damage, corrosion, or misdrilled or elongated fastener holes) of the affected area, in accordance with the alert service bulletin.

(i) If no remaining discrepancy is detected, prior to further flight, install the correct sized fasteners in accordance with the alert service bulletin.

(ii) If any remaining discrepancy is detected, prior to further flight, repair in accordance with a method approved by the Manager, Atlanta ACO.

Alternative Methods of Compliance

(c) 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, Atlanta ACO. Operators shall submit their requests through an appropriate FAA Principal Maintenance Inspector, who may add comments and then send it to the Manager, Atlanta ACO.

Note 3: Information concerning the existence of approved alternative methods of compliance with this AD, if any, may be obtained from the Atlanta ACO.

Special Flight Permits

(d) 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.

Issued in Renton, Washington, on April 19, 1999.

D. L. Riggin,

Acting Manager, Transport Airplane Directorate, Aircraft Certification Service.

[FR Doc. 99–10185 Filed 4–22–99; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Aviation Administration

14 CFR Part 39

[Docket No. 98–NM–364–AD]

RIN 2120–AA64

Airworthiness Directives; Fokker Model F27 Series Airplanes Equipped with Rolls-Royce 532–7 “Dart 7” (RD-7) Series Engines

AGENCY: Federal Aviation Administration, DOT.

ACTION: Notice of proposed rulemaking (NPRM).

SUMMARY: This document proposes the adoption of a new airworthiness directive (AD) that is applicable to certain Fokker Model F27 series airplanes. This proposal would require a revision to the Airplane Flight Manual (AFM) to provide the flightcrew with modified operational procedures to ensure continuous operation with the high pressure cock (HPC) levers in the lockout position. This proposal is prompted by issuance of mandatory continuing airworthiness information by a foreign civil airworthiness authority. The actions specified by the proposed AD are intended to prevent overspeed and burnout of the engines during flight by ensuring that the HPC levers are in a permanent lockout position.

DATES: Comments must be received by May 24, 1999.

ADDRESSES: Submit comments in triplicate to the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), Transport Airplane Directorate, ANM–114, Attention: Rules Docket No. 98–NM–364–AD, 1601 Lind Avenue, SW., Renton, Washington 98055–4056. Comments may be inspected at this location between 9:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays.

The service information referenced in the proposed rule may be obtained from Fokker Services B.V., Technical Support Department, P.O. Box 75047, 1117 ZN Schiphol Airport, The Netherlands. This information may be examined at the FAA, Transport Airplane Directorate, 1601 Lind Avenue, SW., Renton, Washington.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Norman B. Martenson, Manager, International Branch, ANM-116, FAA, Transport Airplane Directorate, 1601 Lind Avenue, SW., Renton, Washington 98055-4056; telephone (425) 227-2110; fax (425) 227-1149.

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 shall 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 summarizing 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 Number 98-NM-364-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, Transport Airplane Directorate, ANM-114, Attention: Rules Docket No. 98-NM-364-AD, 1601 Lind Avenue, SW., Renton, Washington 98055-4056.

Discussion

The Rijksluchtvaartdienst (RLD), which is the airworthiness authority for the Netherlands, notified the FAA that an unsafe condition may exist on Fokker Model F27 series airplanes equipped with Rolls-Royce 532-7 "Dart 7" (RDa-7) series engines. The RLD advises that there have been numerous incidents of cruise lock hang-up on Fokker Model F27 series airplanes. This malfunction of the cruise lock withdrawal system, combined with failure of the flightcrew to select the high pressure cock (HPC) levers to the lockout position, has

resulted in incidents of engine overspeed and burnout. Additionally, there have been reports of erroneous selection of the HPC levers to the closed position, resulting in unnecessary engine shutdown. These conditions, if not corrected, could result in overspeed and burnout of the engines during flight.

Explanation of Relevant Service Information

The manufacturer has issued Fokker F27 Service Bulletin F27/61-40, Revision 1, dated August 1, 1997; including Fokker F27 Manual Change Notification (MCNO) F27-001, dated June 30, 1997; which describes procedures for revision of the Emergency, Normal, and Abnormal Procedures Sections of the Airplane Flight Manual (AFM). The MCNO introduces a change that specifies placing the HPC levers in a permanent lockout position (with the cruise lock withdrawal system disabled) during operation of the airplane. The RLD classified this service information as mandatory and issued Dutch airworthiness directive 1996-130(A), dated October 31, 1996, in order to assure the continued airworthiness of these airplanes in the Netherlands.

FAA's Conclusions

This airplane model is manufactured in the Netherlands and is type certificated for operation in the United States under the provisions of § 21.29 of the Federal Aviation Regulations (14 CFR 21.29) and the applicable bilateral airworthiness agreement. Pursuant to this bilateral airworthiness agreement, the RLD has kept the FAA informed of the situation described above. The FAA has examined the findings of the RLD, reviewed all available information, and determined that AD action is necessary for products of this type design that are certificated for operation in the United States.

Explanation of Requirements of Proposed Rule

Since an unsafe condition has been identified that is likely to exist or develop on other airplanes of the same type design registered in the United States, the proposed AD would require a revision of the Emergency, Normal, and Abnormal Procedures Sections of the FAA-approved Airplane Flight Manual (AFM) to provide the flightcrew with modified operational procedures to ensure continuous operation with the HPC levers in the lockout position (with the cruise lock withdrawal system disabled). The actions would be required to be accomplished in accordance with the service information

described previously, except as discussed below.

Differences Between Proposed Rule and Dutch Airworthiness Directive

Operators should note that the related Dutch airworthiness directive recommends verification that the modifications described in two Rolls-Royce Service Bulletins (DA72-198 and DA72-348) have been accomplished on Rolls-Royce 532-7 "Dart 7" (RDa-7) series engines installed on Fokker F27 airplanes. However, this proposed AD would not require such verification. The FAA has been advised that accomplishment of the two modifications of the Rolls-Royce engines is recommended to prevent the loss of propeller control in the event of an annulus gear failure. Such engine gearbox failures are not related to malfunction of the cruise lock withdrawal system, and accomplishment of these engine modifications is not intended to address the identified unsafe condition of this proposed AD. Therefore, the FAA has determined that verification of accomplishment of these engine modifications, if necessary, will be addressed by separate rulemaking action.

Cost Impact

The FAA estimates that 34 Model F27 series airplanes of U.S. registry would be affected by this proposed AD, that it would take approximately 1 work hour per airplane to accomplish the proposed AFM revision, and that the average labor rate is \$60 per work hour. Based on these figures, the cost impact of the AFM revision proposed by this AD on U.S. operators is estimated to be \$2,040, or \$60 per airplane.

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.

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 proposed regulation: (1)

Is not a "significant regulatory action" under Executive Order 12866; (2) is not a "significant rule" under the 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 is contained 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 the following new airworthiness directive:

Fokker: Docket 98–NM–364–AD.

Applicability: Model F27 series airplanes, as listed in Fokker F27 Service Bulletin F27/61–40, Revision 1, dated August 1, 1997; certificated in any category.

Compliance: Required as indicated, unless accomplished previously.

To prevent overspeed and burnout of the engines during flight by ensuring that the high pressure cock (HPC) levers are in a permanent lockout position, accomplish the following:

AFM Revision

(a) Within 6 months after the effective date of this AD: Revise the Emergency, Normal, and Abnormal Procedures Sections, as applicable, of the FAA-approved Airplane Flight Manual (AFM) by incorporation of Fokker F27 Service Bulletin F27/61–40, Revision 1, dated August 1, 1997; including Fokker F27 Manual Change Notification (MCNO) F27–001, dated June 30, 1997. [MCNO F27–001 specifies procedures for placing the HPC levers in a permanent lockout position (with the cruise lock withdrawal system disabled) during operation of the airplane.] This action may be accomplished by inserting a copy of the MCNO into the AFM.

Alternative Methods of Compliance

(b) 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, International Branch, ANM–116, FAA, Transport Airplane Directorate. Operators shall submit their requests through an appropriate FAA Principal Operations Inspector, who may add comments and then send it to the Manager, International Branch, ANM–116.

Note 1: Information concerning the existence of approved alternative methods of compliance with this AD, if any, may be obtained from the International Branch, ANM–116.

Special Flight Permits

(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.

Note 2: The subject of this AD is addressed in Dutch airworthiness directive 1996–130 (A), dated October 31, 1996.

Issued in Renton, Washington, on April 19, 1999.

D.L. Riggins,

Acting Manager, Transport Airplane Directorate, Aircraft Certification Service.

[FR Doc. 99–10184 Filed 4–22–99; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Aviation Administration

14 CFR Part 39

[Docket No. 98–NM–62–AD]

RIN 2120–AA64

Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Industrie Model A300–600 Series Airplanes

AGENCY: Federal Aviation Administration, DOT.

ACTION: Notice of proposed rulemaking (NPRM).

SUMMARY: This document proposes the superseding of an existing airworthiness directive (AD), applicable to certain Airbus Industrie Model A300–600 series airplanes, that currently requires repetitive high frequency eddy current inspections to detect cracks in bolt holes where parts of the main landing gear are attached to the rear spar, and repair, if necessary. This action would require repetitive ultrasonic inspections to detect cracking in certain bolt holes of the rear spar, and repair, if necessary. This proposal is prompted by issuance of mandatory continuing airworthiness

information by a foreign civil airworthiness authority. The actions specified by the proposed AD are intended to detect and correct cracking of the rear spar of the wing, which could result in reduced structural integrity of the airplane.

DATES: Comments must be received by May 24, 1999.

ADDRESSES: Submit comments in triplicate to the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), Transport Airplane Directorate, ANM–114, Attention: Rules Docket No. 98–NM–62–AD, 1601 Lind Avenue, SW., Renton, Washington 98055–4056. Comments may be inspected at this location between 9:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays.

The service information referenced in the proposed rule may be obtained from Airbus Industrie, 1 Rond Point Maurice Bellonte, 31707 Blagnac Cedex, France. This information may be examined at the FAA, Transport Airplane Directorate, 1601 Lind Avenue, SW., Renton, Washington.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Norman B. Martenson, Manager, International Branch, ANM–116, FAA, Transport Airplane Directorate, 1601 Lind Avenue, SW., Renton, Washington 98055–4056; telephone (425) 227–2110; fax (425) 227–1149.

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 shall 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 summarizing each FAA-public contact concerned with the substance of this