

Done in Washington, DC, this 28th day of October 1996.

A. Strating,

Acting Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

[FR Doc. 96-27976 Filed 10-30-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-34-P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Aviation Administration

14 CFR Part 39

[Docket No. 95-NM-271-AD]

RIN 2120-AA64

Airworthiness Directives; Jetstream Model 4101 Airplanes

AGENCY: Federal Aviation Administration, DOT.

ACTION: Supplemental notice of proposed rulemaking; reopening of comment period.

SUMMARY: This document revises an earlier proposed airworthiness directive (AD), applicable to certain Jetstream Model 4101 series airplanes, that would have required a high frequency eddy current (HFEC) inspection to detect cracks of the boundary angle and joint angle of the rear pressure bulkhead, and repair, if necessary. That action also proposed to require modification of the rear pressure bulkhead of the fuselage. That proposal was prompted by a report of fatigue cracking in the rear pressure bulkhead of the fuselage. This action revises the proposed rule by referencing a new service bulletin that includes new technical procedures for accomplishing the HFEC inspection, and removing airplanes having certain constructor numbers. The actions specified by this proposed AD are intended to prevent such fatigue cracking, which could result in reduced structural integrity of the fuselage and, consequently, lead to the rapid decompression of the pressurized area of the airplane.

DATES: Comments must be received by November 19, 1996.

ADDRESSES: Submit comments in triplicate to the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), Transport Airplane Directorate, ANM-103, Attention: Rules Docket No. 95-NM-271-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 Jetstream Aircraft, Inc., P.O. Box 16029,

Dulles International Airport, Washington, DC 20041-6029. This information may be examined at the FAA, Transport Airplane Directorate, 1601 Lind Avenue, SW., Renton, Washington.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

William Schroeder, Aerospace Engineer, Standardization Branch, ANM-113, FAA, Transport Airplane Directorate, 1601 Lind Avenue, SW., Renton, Washington 98055-4056; telephone (206) 227-2148; fax (206) 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 95-NM-271-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-103, Attention: Rules Docket No. 95-NM-271-AD, 1601 Lind Avenue, SW., Renton, Washington 98055-4056.

Discussion

A proposal to amend part 39 of the Federal Aviation Regulations (14 CFR part 39) to add an airworthiness directive (AD), applicable to certain Jetstream Model 4101 series airplanes, was published as a notice of proposed rulemaking (NPRM) in the Federal

Register on July 10, 1996 (61 FR 36308). That NPRM would have required a high frequency eddy current inspection to detect cracks of the boundary angle and joint angle of the rear pressure bulkhead, and repair, if necessary. That NPRM also would have required modification of the rear pressure bulkhead of the fuselage. That NPRM was prompted by a report of fatigue cracking in the rear pressure bulkhead of the fuselage. That condition, if not detected and corrected in a timely manner, could result in reduced structural integrity of the fuselage and, consequently, lead to the rapid decompression of the pressurized area of the airplane.

Actions Since Issuance of Previous Proposal

Since the issuance of that NPRM, Jetstream has issued Revision 1 of Service Bulletin J41-53-020 (the original version of this service bulletin was referenced as Service Bulletin J41-53-020-41382A in the NPRM), dated June 4, 1995. This revision revises certain technical procedures specified in the Accomplishment Instructions. In addition, airplanes having constructors numbers 41048 through 41060, inclusive, are removed from the effectivity listing of the service bulletin, since those planes have been identified as not being subject to the addressed unsafe condition. The Civil Aviation Authority (CAA), which is the airworthiness authority for the United Kingdom, classified this service bulletin as mandatory, in order to assure the continued airworthiness of these airplanes in the United Kingdom.

FAA's Conclusions

The FAA has examined the findings of the CAA and reviewed the new service information. The FAA has determined that, in order to effectively address the unsafe condition presented by the problems associated with fatigue cracking in the subject area, the proposed rule must be revised to reference Revision 1 of Jetstream Service Bulletin J41-53-020 as the appropriate source of service information. In addition, the applicability of the proposed rule must be revised by removing Model 4101 airplanes having constructors numbers 41048 through 41060, inclusive.

Since these changes expand the scope of the originally proposed rule, the FAA has determined that it is necessary to reopen the comment period to provide additional opportunity for public comment.

Cost Impact

The FAA estimates that 40 Model 4101 airplanes of U.S. registry will be affected by this AD, that it will take approximately 40 work hours per airplane to accomplish the actions, and that the average labor rate is \$60 per work hour. Required parts will be supplied by the manufacturer at no cost to the operators. Based on these figures, the cost impact of the AD on U.S. operators is estimated to be \$96,000, or \$2,400 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:

Jetstream Aircraft Limited: Docket 95–NM–271–AD.

Applicability: Model 4101 airplanes, constructors numbers 41004 through 41047 inclusive; certificated in any category.

Note 1: This AD applies to each airplane identified in the preceding applicability provision, regardless of whether it has been otherwise 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 (b) 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-related cracking in the rear pressure bulkhead, which could result in reduced structural integrity of the fuselage and, consequently, lead to the rapid decompression of the pressurized area of the airplane; accomplish the following:

(a) Prior to the accumulation of 10,000 total landings, or within 6 months after the effective date of this AD, whichever occurs later, accomplish paragraphs (a)(1) and (a)(2) of this AD, in accordance Jetstream Service Bulletin J41–53–020, Revision 1, dated June 4, 1996.

(1) Perform a high frequency eddy current inspection to detect cracks of the boundary angle and joint angle of the rear pressure bulkhead, in accordance with the service bulletin. If any crack is detected, prior to further flight, repair it in accordance with a method approved by the Manager, Standardization Branch, ANM–113, FAA, Transport Airplane Directorate.

(2) Modify the rear pressure bulkhead of the fuselage (Jetstream Modification JM41382A), in accordance with the service bulletin.

(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, Standardization Branch, ANM–113. Operators shall submit their requests through an appropriate FAA Principal Maintenance Inspector, who may add comments and then send it to the Manager, Standardization Branch, ANM–113.

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

obtained from the Standardization Branch, ANM–113.

(c) 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 October 24, 1996.

Darrell M. Pederson,

Acting Manager, Transport Airplane Directorate, Aircraft Certification Service.

[FR Doc. 96–27925 Filed 10–30–96; 8:45 am]

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14 CFR Part 39

[Docket No. 96–NM–32–AD]

Airworthiness Directives; Fokker Model F27 Mark 050, 100, 200, 300, 400, 600, and 700 Series Airplanes

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 Mark 050, 100, 200, 300, 400, 600, and 700 series airplanes. This proposal would require an ultrasonic inspection to determine if certain tubes are installed in the drag stay units of the main landing gear (MLG), and various follow-on actions. This proposal is prompted by a report that, due to fatigue cracking from an improperly machined radius of the inner tube, a drag stay broke, and, consequently, lead to the collapse of the MLG during landing. The actions specified by the proposed AD are intended to prevent such fatigue cracking, which could result in reduced structural integrity or collapse of the MLG.

DATES: Comments must be received by December 10, 1996.

ADDRESSES: Submit comments in triplicate to the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), Transport Airplane Directorate, ANM–103, Attention: Rules Docket No. 96–NM–32–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 Aircraft USA, Inc., 1199 North Fairfax Street, Alexandria, Virginia 22314; and Dowty Aerospace, Customer Support Center, P.O. Box 49, Sterling,