

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:

**Airbus Industrie:** Docket 97–NM–148–AD.

**Applicability:** Model A320 and A321 series airplanes; as listed in Airbus Service Bulletin A320–28–1044, Revision 10, dated November 5, 1996; 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 blockage of fuel by the build-up of ice crystals, which could result in low fuel pressure, and consequent shutdown of the engine during critical phases of flight, accomplish the following:

(a) Within 24 months after the effective date of this AD, replace the 8 mesh strainers of each fuel pump with 4 mesh strainers, in accordance with Airbus Service Bulletin A320–28–1044, Revision 10, dated November 5, 1996.

(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 Maintenance Inspector, who may add comments and then

send it to the Manager, International Branch, ANM–116.

**Note 2:** Information concerning the existence of approved alternative methods of compliance with this AD, if any, may be obtained from the International Branch, ANM–116.

(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.

**Note 3:** The subject of this AD is addressed in French airworthiness directive 96–170–082(B), dated August 28, 1996.

Issued in Renton, Washington, on November 18, 1997.

**James V. Devany,**

*Acting Manager, Transport Airplane Directorate, Aircraft Certification Service.*

[FR Doc. 97–30856 Filed 11–24–97; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4910–13–U**

#### DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

#### Federal Aviation Administration

#### 14 CFR Part 39

[Docket No. 97–NM–178–AD]

RIN 2120–AA64

#### Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Model A300 and A300–600 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 Airbus Model A300 and A300–600 series airplanes. This proposal would require inspections to detect cracks in Gear Rib 5 of the main landing gear (MLG) attachment fittings at the lower flange, 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 fatigue cracking of the MLG attachment fittings, which could result in reduced structural integrity of the airplane.

**DATES:** Comments must be received by December 26, 1997.

**ADDRESSES:** Submit comments in triplicate to the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), Transport Airplane Directorate, ANM–103, Attention: Rules Docket No. 97–NM–178–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:** 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 97–NM–178–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. 97–NM–178–AD, 1601 Lind Avenue, SW., Renton, Washington 98055–4056.

#### Discussion

The Direction Générale de l'Aviation Civile (DGAC), which is the airworthiness authority for France,

notified the FAA that an unsafe condition may exist on certain Airbus Model A300 and A300-600 series airplanes. The DGAC advises that, on two in-service airplanes, fatigue cracking has been detected on Gear Rib 5 of the main landing gear attachment fitting at the lower flange. Such fatigue cracking, if not detected and corrected in a timely manner, could result in reduced structural integrity of the airplane.

#### Explanation of Relevant Service Information

Airbus has issued Service Bulletins A300-57A6087 (for Model A300-600 series airplanes) and A300-57A0234 (for Model A300 series airplanes), both dated August 5, 1997. These service bulletins describe procedures for detailed visual and high frequency eddy current inspections to detect cracks in Gear Rib 5 of the main landing gear attachment fittings at the lower flange. The DGAC classified these service bulletins as mandatory and issued French airworthiness directive (CN) 97-274-230(B), dated September 24, 1997, in order to assure the continued airworthiness of these airplanes in France.

#### FAA's Conclusions

These airplane models are manufactured in France and are type certificated for operation in the United States under the provisions of section 21.29 of the Federal Aviation Regulations (14 CFR 21.29) and the applicable bilateral airworthiness agreement. Pursuant to this bilateral airworthiness agreement, the DGAC has kept the FAA informed of the situation described above. The FAA has examined the findings of the DGAC, 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 accomplishment of the actions specified in the service bulletins described previously, except as discussed below.

#### Differences Between the Proposed AD and the Related Service Bulletins

The service bulletins described previously specify that appropriate corrective action may be obtained by contacting the manufacturer, Airbus,

directly. However, this proposed AD would require that any such repair be accomplished in accordance with a method approved by the FAA.

#### Cost Impact

The FAA estimates that 67 airplanes of U.S. registry would be affected by this proposed AD, that it would take approximately 6 work hours per airplane to accomplish the proposed actions, and that the average labor rate is \$60 per work hour. Based on these figures, the cost impact of the proposed AD on U.S. operators is estimated to be \$24,120, or \$360 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:

**Airbus Industrie:** Docket 97-NM-178-AD.

**Applicability:** Model A300-600 series airplanes, as listed in Airbus Service Bulletin A300-57A6087, dated August 5, 1997; and Model A300 series airplanes, as listed in Airbus Service Bulletin A300-57A0234, dated August 5, 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 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 (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 accomplished previously.

To detect and correct cracks in Gear Rib 5 of the main landing gear attachment fittings at the lower flange, which could result in reduced structural integrity of the airplane, accomplish the following:

(a) For Model A300 series airplanes that have accumulated more than 27,000 flight cycles as of the effective date of this AD: Except as provided by paragraph (b) of this AD, within 40 flight cycles after the effective date of this AD, perform a detailed visual inspection to detect cracks in Gear Rib 5 of the main landing gear attachment fittings at the lower flange, in accordance with Airbus Service Bulletin A300-57A0234, dated August 5, 1997. Thereafter, repeat the inspection at intervals not to exceed 40 flight cycles, until the actions required by paragraph (b) are accomplished.

(b) For all airplanes: Perform a detailed visual and a high frequency eddy current inspection to detect cracks in Gear Rib 5 of the main landing gear attachment fittings at the lower flange, in accordance with Airbus Service Bulletin A300-57A6087 (for Model A300-600 series airplanes) or A300-57A0234 (for Model A300 series airplanes), both dated August 5, 1997; as applicable; at the time specified in paragraph (b)(1) or (b)(2) of this AD, as applicable. Accomplishment of the inspection required by this paragraph terminates the inspections required by paragraph (a) of this AD.

(1) For airplanes that have accumulated 20,000 or more total flight cycles as of the effective date of this AD: Inspect within 500

flight cycles after the effective date of this AD.

(2) For airplanes that have accumulated less than 20,000 total flight cycles as of the effective date of this AD: Inspect prior to the accumulation of 18,000 total flight cycles, or within 1,500 flight cycles after the effective date of this AD, whichever occurs later.

(c) If any crack is detected during any inspection required by this AD, prior to further flight, repair in accordance with a method approved by the Manager, International Branch, ANM-116, FAA, Transport Airplane Directorate.

(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, International Branch, ANM-116. Operators shall submit their requests through an appropriate FAA Principal Maintenance Inspector, who may add comments and then send it to the Manager, International Branch, ANM-116.

**Note 2:** Information concerning the existence of approved alternative methods of compliance with this AD, if any, may be obtained from the International Branch, ANM-116.

(e) 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 3:** The subject of this AD is addressed in French airworthiness directive (CN) 97-274-230(B), dated September 24, 1997.

Issued in Renton, Washington, on November 18, 1997.

**Stewart R. Miller,**

*Acting Manager, Transport Airplane Directorate, Aircraft Certification Service.*

[FR Doc. 97-30858 Filed 11-24-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-13-U

## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

### Federal Aviation Administration

#### 14 CFR Part 39

[Docket No. 97-CE-78-AD]

RIN 2120-AA64

#### **Airworthiness Directives; Aeromot-Industria Mecanico Metalurgica Ltda. Models AMT-100 and AMT-200 Powered Gliders**

**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 Aeromot-Industria Mecanico Metalurgica Ltda. (Aeromot) Models AMT-100 and AMT-200 powered gliders. The proposed action would

require replacing all main landing gear attaching nuts and bolts with ones of improved design. The proposed AD is the result of mandatory continued airworthiness information (MCAI) issued by the airworthiness authority for Brazil. The actions specified by the proposed AD are intended to prevent failure of the main landing gear, which could cause loss of control of the sailplane during landing operations.

**DATES:** Comments must be received on or before December 26, 1997.

**ADDRESSES:** Submit comments in triplicate to the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), Central Region, Office of the Regional Counsel, Attention: Rules Docket No. 97-CE-78-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 Grupo Aeromot, Aeromot-Industria Mecanico Metalurgica Ltda., Av. das Industrias-1210, Bairro Anchieta, Caixa Postal 8031, 90200-Porto Alegre-RS, Brazil. This information also may be examined at the Rules Docket at the address above.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Curtis Jackson, Aerospace Engineer, Atlanta Aircraft Certification Office, One Crown Center, 1895 Phoenix Blvd., suite 450, Atlanta, Georgia 30349; telephone (770) 703-6083; facsimile (770) 703-6097.

#### **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. 97-CE-78-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. 97-CE-78-AD, Room 1558, 601 E. 12th Street, Kansas City, Missouri 64106.

##### **Discussion**

The Centro Tecnico Aeroespacial (CTA), which is the airworthiness authority for Brazil, recently notified the FAA that an unsafe condition may exist on certain Aeromot Models AMT-100 and AMT-200 powered gliders. The CTA reports that the main landing gear on two powered gliders failed. The failure is the result of hard landings shearing the attaching bolts and causing collapse of the main landing gear. After further investigation, the manufacturer has determined that these bolts (part numbers (P/N) TH 6x30 PL11) and nuts (P/N 6PA-108) may have intergranular defects and the design is not adequate to withstand a very hard landing. These conditions, if not corrected, could result in loss of the main landing gear during landing operations.

##### **Relevant Service Information**

Aeromot has issued Service Bulletin (SB) No. SB-200-32-044, Issue Date August 18, 1997, which specifies procedures for removing the original attaching bolts and nuts, and installing attaching bolts and nuts of an improved design.

The CTA classified these service bulletins as mandatory and issued Brazilian AD 97-09-06, dated August 14, 1997, in order to assure the continued airworthiness of these airplanes in Brazil.

##### **The FAA's Determination**

This airplane model is manufactured in Brazil and is type certificated for operation in the United States under the provisions of section 21.29 of the Federal Aviation Regulations (14 CFR 21.29) and the applicable bilateral airworthiness agreement. Pursuant to this bilateral airworthiness agreement, the CTA has kept the FAA informed of the situation described above. The FAA