

**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION****Federal Aviation Administration****14 CFR Part 39**

[Docket No. 97-NM-65-AD]

RIN 2120-AA64

**Airworthiness Directives; Boeing Model 747-400 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 Boeing Model 747-400 series airplanes. This proposal would require a one-time inspection of the separation between the galley power feeder and static ground wiring, and the adjacent passenger oxygen system tubing in the forward ceiling area above the door 4 galley; and rerouting of wiring, and installing clamps and sleeves, if necessary. This proposal is prompted by reports of inadequate clearance between the galley power feeder wiring and passenger oxygen system tubing. The actions specified by the proposed AD are intended to prevent such inadequate clearance, which could result in a fire in the ceiling area above the door 4 galley due to chafing of wiring on oxygen system tubing.

**DATES:** Comments must be received by January 23, 1998.

**ADDRESSES:** Submit comments in triplicate to the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), Transport Airplane Directorate, ANM-103, Attention: Rules Docket No. 97-NM-65-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 Boeing Commercial Airplane Group, P.O. Box 3707, Seattle, Washington 98124-2207. This information may be examined at the FAA, Transport Airplane Directorate, 1601 Lind Avenue, SW., Renton, Washington.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Susan Letcher, Aerospace Engineer, Systems and Equipment Branch, ANM-130S, FAA, Seattle Aircraft Certification Office, 1601 Lind Avenue, SW., Renton, Washington; telephone (425) 227-2670; fax (425) 227-1181.

**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-65-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-65-AD, 1601 Lind Avenue, SW., Renton, Washington 98055-4056.

**Discussion**

The FAA received reports of inadequate clearance between the galley power feeder wiring and the adjacent passenger oxygen system tubing in the forward ceiling area above the door 4 galley on a number of Model 747-400 series airplanes, including one in assembly. Inadequate clearance between wiring and oxygen tubing can result in chafing of the wiring on the tubing, and resultant electrical arcing, which could damage the oxygen tubing. If the damaged tubing is pressurized, oxygen could leak in the vicinity of the electrical arcing. This condition, if not corrected, could result in a fire in the ceiling area above the door 4 galley.

**Explanation of Relevant Service Information**

The FAA has reviewed and approved Boeing Alert Service Bulletin 747-25A3137, dated March 13, 1997, which describes procedures for a one-time inspection of the separation between the galley power feeder and static ground wiring, and the adjacent passenger oxygen system tubing in the forward ceiling area above the door 4 galley; and rerouting of wiring, and installing clamps and sleeves, if necessary, to obtain adequate separation.

**Explanation of Requirements of Proposed Rule**

Since an unsafe condition has been identified that is likely to exist or develop on other products of this same type design, the proposed AD would require accomplishment of the actions specified in the alert service bulletin described previously.

**Differences Between the Alert Service Bulletin and This Proposed AD**

The alert service bulletin separates affected airplanes into two groups (Groups 1 and 2), and recommends compliance within 90 days and 18 months, respectively, for those groups. In addition to providing oxygen to passengers in the event of an in-flight depressurization, the oxygen system on Group 1 airplanes also can provide therapeutic oxygen. The oxygen tubing on Group 1 airplanes is always pressurized with oxygen because of this therapeutic oxygen feature. The oxygen tubing on Group 2 airplanes is only pressurized when the passenger oxygen system is activated in the event of depressurization. Chafing of wires on pressurized oxygen tubing (i.e., Group 1 airplanes) represents a greater fire hazard; therefore, the alert service bulletin recommends earlier compliance for that group.

The manufacturer has advised the FAA that most Group 1 airplanes have already voluntarily accomplished the actions specified in the alert service bulletin, and no cases of chafing have been found. In light of this, the FAA has determined that a compliance time of 18 months for both Group 1 and Group 2 airplanes will provide an acceptable level of safety.

**Cost Impact**

There are approximately 452 Boeing Model 747-400 series airplanes of the affected design in the worldwide fleet. The FAA estimates that 36 airplanes of U.S. registry would be affected by this proposed AD, that it would take approximately 2 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 \$4,320, or \$120 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:

**Boeing:** Docket 97-NM-65-AD.

**Applicability:** Model 747-400 series airplanes; as listed in Boeing Alert Service Bulletin 747-25A3137, dated March 13, 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 (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 chafing of the galley power feeder and static ground wiring on passenger oxygen system tubing in the forward ceiling area above the Door 4 galley, which could result in a fire, accomplish the following:

(a) Within 18 months after the effective date of this AD: Perform a one-time inspection of the separation between the galley power feeder and static ground wiring, and the adjacent passenger oxygen system tubing in the forward ceiling area above the door 4 galley, in accordance with Boeing Alert Service Bulletin 747-25A3137, dated March 13, 1997. If the separation is outside the limits specified in the alert service bulletin, prior to further flight, reroute the wiring, and install clamps and sleeves in accordance with the alert 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, Seattle Aircraft Certification Office (ACO), 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, Seattle ACO.

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

(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 December 2, 1997.

#### Darrell M. Pederson,

*Acting Manager, Transport Airplane Directorate, Aircraft Certification Service.*  
[FR Doc. 97-32110 Filed 12-8-97; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4910-13-U**

## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

### Federal Aviation Administration

#### 14 CFR Part 39

[Docket No. 97-NM-75-AD]

RIN 2120-AA64

### Airworthiness Directives; Grumman Model TS-2A 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 all Grumman Model TS-2A series airplanes. This proposal would require revising the Airplane Flight Manual (AFM) to modify the limitation that prohibits positioning the power levers below the flight idle stop during flight, and to provide a statement of the consequences of positioning the power levers below the flight idle stop during flight. This proposal is prompted by incidents and accidents involving airplanes equipped with turboprop engines in which the ground propeller beta range was used improperly during flight. The actions specified by the proposed AD are intended to prevent loss of airplane controllability, or engine overspeed and consequent loss of engine power, caused by the power levers being positioned below the flight idle stop while the airplane is in flight.

**DATES:** Comments must be received by January 8, 1998.

**ADDRESSES:** Submit comments in triplicate to the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), Transport Airplane Directorate, ANM-103, Attention: Rules Docket No. 97-NM-75-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.

This information may be examined at the FAA, Transport Airplane Directorate, 601 Lind Avenue, SW., Renton, Washington; or at the FAA, Transport Airplane Directorate, Los Angeles Aircraft Certification Office, 3960 Paramount Boulevard, Lakewood, California.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Frank Hoerman, Aerospace Engineer, Flight Test Branch, ANM-160L, FAA, Transport Airplane Directorate, Los Angeles Aircraft Certification Office, 3960 Paramount Boulevard, Lakewood,