

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Aviation Administration

14 CFR Part 39

[Docket No. 98-NM-80-AD; Amendment 39-10685; AD 98-16-09]

RIN 2120-AA64

Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Model A300, A310, and A300-600 Series Airplanes

AGENCY: Federal Aviation Administration, DOT.

ACTION: Final rule.

SUMMARY: This amendment adopts a new airworthiness directive (AD), applicable to certain Airbus Model A300, A310, and A300-600 series airplanes, that requires a one-time operational test of the fire shut-off valves (FSOV's) to determine if the FSOV's are functioning correctly, and replacement of failed parts with new or serviceable parts. This amendment is prompted by issuance of mandatory continuing airworthiness information by a foreign civil airworthiness authority. The actions specified by this AD are intended to prevent failure of the FSOV's to close, which could result in failure of the engine fire shut-off system, and consequent inability to extinguish an engine fire.

DATES: Effective September 4, 1998.

The incorporation by reference of certain publications listed in the regulations is approved by the Director of Federal Register as of September 4, 1998.

ADDRESSES: The service information referenced in this AD may be obtained from Airbus Industrie, 1 Rond Point Maurice Bellonte, 31707 Blagnac Cedex, France. This information may be examined at the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), Transport Airplane Directorate, Rule Docket, 1601 Lind Avenue, SW., Renton, Washington; or at the Office of the Federal Register, 800 North Capitol Street, NW., suite 700, Washington, DC.

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 (415) 227-2110; fax (425) 227-1149.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: A proposal to amend part 39 of the Federal Aviation Regulations (14 CFR part 39) to include an airworthiness directive (AD) that is applicable to certain Airbus Model A300, A310, and A300-600 series airplanes was published in the

Federal Register on April 6, 1998 (63 FR 16716). That action proposed to require a one-time operational test of the fire shut-off valves (FSOV's) to determine if the FSOV's are functioning correctly, and replacement of failed parts with new or serviceable parts.

Comments

Interested persons have been afforded an opportunity to participate in the making of this amendment. Due consideration has been given to the comments received.

Two commenters express no objection to the proposed rule. However, both request that the applicability of the proposed AD be revised to expressly identify affected part numbers of the fire shut-off valves, rather than referencing information contained in Airbus All Operator Telex (AOT) 29-22, dated November 24, 1997. The commenters state that such a change will prevent confusion by removing any ambiguity as to which airplanes are affected by this proposed AD. The FAA concurs that the applicability can be revised to specify those airplanes having an affected part number installed. Because the referenced AOT provides this same information, there is no change in the airplanes that would be affected by the proposed AD. The final rule has been revised accordingly.

Conclusion

After careful review of the available data, including the comments noted above, the FAA has determined that air safety and the public interest require the adoption of the rule with the change previously described. The FAA has determined that this change will neither increase the economic burden on any operator nor increase the scope of the AD.

Cost Impact

The FAA estimates that 103 airplanes of U.S. registry will be affected by this AD, that it will take approximately 1 work hour per airplane to accomplish the required test, and that the average labor rate is \$60 per work hour. Based on these figures, the cost impact of the AD on U.S. operators is estimated to be \$6,180, or \$60 per airplane.

The cost impact figure discussed above is based on assumptions that no operator has yet accomplished any of the 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 adopted herein will 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 final rule does 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) 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 final evaluation has been prepared for this action and it is contained in the Rules Docket. A copy of it may be obtained from the Rules Docket at the location provided under the caption **ADDRESSES**.

List of Subjects in 14 CFR Part 39

Air transportation, Aircraft, Aviation safety, Incorporation by reference, Safety.

Adoption of the Amendment

Accordingly, pursuant to the authority delegated to me by the Administrator, the Federal Aviation Administration amends 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:

98-16-09 Airbus Industrie: Amendment 39-10685. Docket 98-NM-80-AD.

Applicability: Model A300, A310, and A300-600 series airplanes; on which any fire shut-off valve (FSOV) having part number (P/N) B38LC37XX or B38LC50XX (where XX is 05, 06, 07, 08, 09, or 10) is installed; 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 (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 failure of the FSOV's to close, which would result in failure of the engine fire shut-off system, and consequently inability to extinguish an engine fire, accomplish the following:

(a) Within 500 flight hours after the effective date of this AD, perform a one-time operational test of the 4 fire shut-off valves (FSOV's) on the airplane, in accordance with Airbus All Operator Telex (AOT) 29-22, dated November 24, 1997. If any FSOV fails the test, prior to further flight, replace the failed FSOV or actuator, as applicable, with a new or serviceable FSOV or actuator, as applicable, in accordance with AOT 29-22.

(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.

(d) The actions shall be done in accordance with Airbus All Operator Telex (AOT) 29-22, dated November 24, 1997. This incorporation by reference was approved by the Director of the Federal Register in accordance with 5 U.S.C. 552(a) and 1 CFR part 51. Copies may be obtained from Airbus Industrie, 1 Rond Point Maurice Bellonte, 31707 Blagnac Cedex, France. Copies may be inspected at the FAA, Transport Airplane Directorate, 1601 Lind Avenue, SW., Renton, Washington; or at the Office of the Federal Register, 800 North Capitol Street, NW., suite 700, Washington, DC.

Note 3: The subject of this AD is addressed in French airworthiness directive 97-384-241(B)R1, dated January 14, 1998.

(e) This amendment becomes effective on September 4, 1998.

Issued in Renton, Washington, on July 24, 1998.

S.R. Miller,

Acting Manager, Transport Airplane Directorate, Aircraft Certification Service.

[FR Doc. 98-20432 Filed 7-30-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-13-U

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Aviation Administration

14 CFR Part 39

[Docket No. 96-NM-42-AD; Amendment 39-10680; AD 98-16-05]

RIN 2120-AA64

Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Model A300-600 Series Airplanes

AGENCY: Federal Aviation Administration, DOT.

ACTION: Final rule.

SUMMARY: This amendment adopts a new airworthiness directive (AD), applicable to all Airbus Model A300-600 series airplanes, that requires inspections of the areas behind the scuff plates below the passenger/crew doors and bulk cargo door to detect cracks and corrosion, and repair, if necessary. This amendment also requires inspections to detect cracking of the holes of the corner doublers, the fail-safe ring, and the door frames of the door structures; and repair, if necessary. In addition, this amendment provides for optional terminating action for certain inspections. This amendment is prompted by reports indicating that corrosion was found behind the scuff plates at exit and cargo doors, and fatigue cracks originated from certain fastener holes located in adjacent structure. The actions specified by this AD are intended to detect and correct such corrosion and fatigue cracking, which could result in reduced structural integrity of the door surroundings.

DATES: Effective September 4, 1998.

The incorporation by reference of certain publications listed in the regulations is approved by the Director of the Federal Register as of September 4, 1998.

ADDRESSES: The service information referenced in this AD may be obtained from Airbus Industrie, 1 Rond Point Maurice Bellonte, 31707 Blagnac Cedex, France. This information may be examined at the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), Transport Airplane Directorate, Rules Docket, 1601 Lind Avenue, SW., Renton, Washington; or at the Office of the Federal Register, 800 North Capitol Street, NW., suite 700, Washington, DC.

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: A proposal to amend part 39 of the Federal Aviation Regulations (14 CFR part 39) to include an airworthiness directive (AD) that is applicable to all Airbus Model A300-600 series airplanes was published in the **Federal Register** on January 29, 1997 (62 FR 4211). That action proposed to require inspections of the lower door surrounding structure to detect cracks and corrosion, and repair, if necessary. That action also proposed to require inspections to detect cracking of the holes of the corner doublers, the fail-safe ring, and the door frames of the door structures; and repair, if necessary. In addition, that action proposed to provide for optional terminating action for certain inspections.

Comments

Interested persons have been afforded an opportunity to participate in the making of this amendment. Due consideration has been given to the comments received.

Clarification of Terminology

One commenter expresses no objection to the proposed rule, but requests that certain terminology in the proposed AD be changed for the sake of clarity. The commenter states that the title is not complete, since it refers only to inspections of the lower door structure, while inspection of the upper door corners is also required. The FAA concurs. The FAA infers that the commenter is referring to the Summary section of the proposed AD, which states that "this proposal would require inspections of the lower door surrounding structure." However, in all other sections of the proposed AD, the area to be inspected is described as "the areas behind the scuff plates below the passenger/crew doors and bulk cargo door," in accordance with procedures described in Airbus Service Bulletin A300-53-6011, Revision 3, dated February 4, 1991. To avoid confusion regarding the area to be inspected for cracks and corrosion, the Summary section of the final rule has been changed to correspond to the terminology used elsewhere throughout the AD.

The same commenter requests that paragraphs (b) and (d) of the proposed AD be changed to refer to the "fail-safe ring and corner strap," rather than the existing terminology of "fail-safe ring and corner doubler." The commenter states that the term "corner strap" is used in Airbus Service Bulletin A300-53-6022, dated February 4, 1991, and in other maintenance documents, rather than "corner doubler." The FAA does