

Proposed Rules

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This section of the FEDERAL REGISTER contains notices to the public of the proposed issuance of rules and regulations. The purpose of these notices is to give interested persons an opportunity to participate in the rule making prior to the adoption of the final rules.

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Aviation Administration

14 CFR Parts 25, 121, 125, and 135

RIN 2120-AC87 and 2120-AA49

Withdrawal of Rulemaking Actions

AGENCY: Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), DOT.

ACTION: Proposed rules; withdrawal.

SUMMARY: The FAA is withdrawing a notice of proposed rulemaking (NPRM) and an advance notice of proposed rulemaking (ANPRM). This action is necessary due to technological advances that have occurred since we published these documents. The effect of this action is to inform the public of our decision to discontinue work on these proposals. This action is part of our effort to address recommendations of the Government Accounting Office and the Management Advisory Council by reducing the number of items in the Regulatory Agenda.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Patrick W. Boyd, Office of Rulemaking (ARM-23), Federal Aviation Administration, 800 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20591, telephone 202-267-7320.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

Installation of Crashworthy Fuselage Fuel Tanks and Fuel Lines, RIN 2120-AC87

On May 2, 1989, the FAA published an ANPRM seeking information on the feasibility of installing, in all air carrier aircraft, fuselage fuel tanks and fuel lines that are rupture resistant and that disconnect and seal in the event of an accident (54 FR 18824). We issued the ANPRM in response to section 9(a) of the Aviation Safety Research Act of 1988 (Pub. L. 100-591). The comment period closed on October 30, 1989.

Since the FAA published the ANPRM, many technological advancements in fuel tank design have occurred. In addition, we are currently engaged in a

process of harmonizing fuel tank and fuel line requirements with the European Joint Aviation Authority. For these reasons, we are withdrawing this ANPRM. We may consider further rulemaking action on this issue in the future.

Fuel System Vent Fire Protection, RIN 2120-AA49

On February 2, 1995, the FAA published an NPRM to amend the airworthiness standards for transport category airplanes to require fuel system vent protection during post-crash ground fires (60 FR 6632). The proposal was the result of information obtained from public hearings on aircraft fire safety and was intended to provide protection against a fuel tank explosion following a post-crash ground fire. The comment period closed on June 2, 1995.

Since the FAA published the NPRM, technological advancements have occurred in this area also. In addition, the issues raised in the NPRM will be addressed by future regulatory action developed within the Aviation Rulemaking Advisory Committee as part of the FAA's program to harmonize its regulations with those of the European Joint Aviation Authorities. The FAA believes future rulemaking action that may be broader in scope and a harmonized proposal will better serve the public interest.

Conclusion

The FAA withdraws the following documents:

- Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking entitled, Installation of Crashworthy Fuselage Fuel Tanks and Fuel Lines, RIN 2120-AC87, May 2, 1989, 54 FR 18824; and
- Notice of Proposed Rulemaking entitled, Fuel System Vent Fire Protection, RIN 2120-AA49, February 2, 1995, 60 FR 6632.

Issued in Washington, DC, on August 16, 2002.

John J. Hickey,

Director, Aircraft Certification Service.

[FR Doc. 02-21570 Filed 8-22-02; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-13-P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Aviation Administration

14 CFR Part 39

[Docket No. 2002-NM-34-AD]

RIN 2120-AA64

Airworthiness Directives; Boeing Model 767 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 767 series airplanes. This proposal would require replacement of the aileron control override quadrant with a modified unit. This action is necessary to prevent corrosion of the input override mechanism bearings of the lateral central control actuator, which, in the event of a subsequent jam in the pilot's aileron control system, could result in failure of the aileron override system and consequent reduced lateral controllability of the airplane. This action is intended to address the identified unsafe condition.

DATES: Comments must be received by October 7, 2002.

ADDRESSES: Submit comments in triplicate to the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), Transport Airplane Directorate, ANM-114, Attention: Rules Docket No. 2002-NM-34-AD, 1601 Lind Avenue, SW., Renton, Washington 98055-4056. Comments may be inspected at this location between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays. Comments may be submitted via fax to (425) 227-1232. Comments may also be sent via the Internet using the following address: 9-anm-nprmcomment@faa.gov. Comments sent via fax or the Internet must contain "Docket No. 2002-NM-34-AD" in the subject line and need not be submitted in triplicate. Comments sent via the Internet as attached electronic files must be formatted in Microsoft Word 97 for Windows or ASCII text.

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: Douglas Tsuji, Aerospace Engineer, Systems and Equipment Branch, ANM-130S, FAA, Seattle Aircraft Certification Office, 1601 Lind Avenue, SW., Renton, Washington 98055-4056; telephone (425) 227-1506; 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 action may be changed in light of the comments received.

Submit comments using the following format:

- Organize comments issue-by-issue. For example, discuss a request to change the compliance time and a request to change the service bulletin reference as two separate issues.

- For each issue, state what specific change to the proposed AD is being requested.

- Include justification (e.g., reasons or data) for each request.

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 action must submit a self-addressed, stamped postcard on which the following statement is made: "Comments to Docket 2002-NM-34-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 2002-NM-34-AD, 1601 Lind Avenue, SW., Renton, Washington 98055-4056.

Discussion

The FAA has received a report of the seizing of the input override mechanism bearings of the lateral central control actuator on affected airplanes. The seizing was discovered during an inspection and has been attributed to corrosion on the steel bearings in the override mechanism. A failed override system is a latent failure and does not affect normal operation. However, if the pilot's control system were to subsequently jam, the seizing of the override bearings could have prevented the aileron control override system from operating properly. This condition, if not corrected, could result in reduced lateral control of the airplane.

Explanation of Relevant Service Information

The FAA has reviewed and approved Boeing Alert Service Bulletin 767-27A0175, dated October 25, 2001, which describes procedures for replacing the aileron control override quadrant with a modified unit. The modification involves replacing the existing steel bearings with corrosion-resistant steel bearings. Accomplishment of the actions specified in the service bulletin is intended to adequately address the identified unsafe condition.

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 service bulletin described previously, except as discussed below.

Difference Between Proposed AD and Service Bulletin

Service Bulletin 767-27A0175 recommends that operators perform the actions specified by Boeing Service Bulletin 767-27-0142 before the actions of this proposed AD. The FAA agrees that both service bulletins require access to the same area of the airplane, so accomplishment of both actions at the same time would be convenient for operators. However, the FAA finds that accomplishment of the actions in Service Bulletin 767-27-0142 is not necessary in connection with this AD to ensure the safety of affected airplanes.

Cost Impact

There are approximately 811 airplanes of the affected design in the worldwide fleet. The FAA estimates that 318 airplanes of U.S. registry would be affected by this proposed AD, that it

would take approximately 3 work hours per airplane to accomplish the proposed replacement, and that the average labor rate is \$60 per work hour. Required parts would cost approximately \$146 per airplane. Based on these figures, the cost impact of the proposed AD on U.S. operators is estimated to be \$103,668, or \$326 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 proposed AD were not adopted. The cost impact figures discussed in AD rulemaking actions represent only the time necessary to perform the specific actions actually required by the AD. These figures typically do not include incidental costs, such as the time required to gain access and close up, planning time, or time necessitated by other administrative actions.

Regulatory Impact

The regulations proposed herein would not have a substantial direct effect 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, it is determined that this proposal would not have federalism implications under Executive Order 13132.

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 2002–NM–34–AD.

Applicability: Model 767 series airplanes; certificated in any category; line numbers 1 through 811 inclusive.

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 corrosion of the input override mechanism bearings of the lateral central control actuator, which, in the event of a subsequent jam in the pilot's aileron control system, could result in failure of the aileron override system and consequent reduced lateral controllability of the airplane, accomplish the following:

Replacement

(a) Within 18 months after the effective date of this AD, replace the aileron control override quadrant with a modified unit, in accordance with Boeing Alert Service Bulletin 767–27A0175, dated October 25, 2001.

Note 2: This AD does not require accomplishment of the actions specified by Boeing Service Bulletin 767–27–0142.

Spare Parts

(b) As of the effective date of this AD, no person may install, on any airplane, an aileron control override quadrant that has not been modified in accordance with the requirements of this AD.

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, Seattle Aircraft Certification Office (ACO), FAA. 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 3: Information concerning the existence of approved alternative methods of

compliance with this AD, if any, may be obtained from the Seattle 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 August 19, 2002.

Vi L. Lipski,

Manager, Transport Airplane Directorate, Aircraft Certification Service.

[FR Doc. 02–21509 Filed 8–22–02; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910–13–P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Aviation Administration

14 CFR Part 39

[Docket No. 2001–NM–358–AD]

RIN 2120–AA64

Airworthiness Directives; McDonnell Douglas Model DC–10–10, DC–10–10F, DC–10–15, DC–10–30, DC–10–30F, DC–10–30F (KC10A and KDC–10), MD–10–10F, and MD–10–30F 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 McDonnell Douglas Model DC–10–10, DC–10–10F, DC–10–15, DC–10–30, DC–10–30F, DC–10–30F (KC10A and KDC–10), MD–10–10F, and MD–10–30F airplanes. This proposal would require inspections of the linear variable differential transducers (LVDTs) of the autopilot for discrepancies, and follow-on actions, if necessary. This action is necessary to prevent failure of the LVDTs, which could result in an automatic pitch trim malfunction or an autopilot disconnect, and consequent reduced controllability of the airplane. This action is intended to address the identified unsafe condition.

DATES: Comments must be received by October 7, 2002.

ADDRESSES: Submit comments in triplicate to the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), Transport Airplane Directorate, ANM–114, Attention: Rules Docket No. 2001–NM–358–AD, 1601 Lind Avenue, SW., Renton, Washington 98055–4056. Comments may be inspected at this location between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal

holidays. Comments may be submitted via fax to (425) 227–1232. Comments may also be sent via the Internet using the following address: 9-anm-nprmcomment@faa.gov. Comments sent via fax or the Internet must contain “Docket No. 2001–NM–358–AD” in the subject line and need not be submitted in triplicate. Comments sent via the Internet as attached electronic files must be formatted in Microsoft Word 97 for Windows or ASCII text.

The service information referenced in the proposed rule may be obtained from Boeing Commercial Aircraft Group, Long Beach Division, 3855 Lakewood Boulevard, Long Beach, California 90846, Attention: Data and Service Management, Dept. C1–L5A (D800–0024). This information may be examined at the FAA, Transport Airplane Directorate, 1601 Lind Avenue, SW., Renton, Washington; or at the FAA, Los Angeles Aircraft Certification Office, 3960 Paramount Boulevard, Lakewood, California.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: *Technical Information:* Ron Atmur, Aerospace Engineer, Airframe Branch, ANM–120L, FAA, Los Angeles Aircraft Certification Office, 3960 Paramount Boulevard, Lakewood, California 90712–4137; telephone (562) 627–5224; fax (562) 627–5210.

Other Information: Sandi Carli, Airworthiness Directive Technical Editor/Writer; telephone (425) 687–4243, fax (425) 687–4248. Questions or comments may also be sent via the Internet using the following address: sandi.carli@faa.gov. Questions or comments sent via the Internet as attached electronic files must be formatted in Microsoft Word 97 for Windows or ASCII text.

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 action may be changed in light of the comments received.

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