

September 28, 1998; McDonnell Douglas Alert Service Bulletin MD11-36A030, Revision 02, dated July 27, 1999; McDonnell Douglas Alert Service Bulletin MD11-36A030, Revision 03, dated December 14, 1999; McDonnell Douglas Service Bulletin MD11-36-018 R01, Revision 1, dated July 18, 1995; McDonnell Douglas Service Bulletin MD11-36-026, dated September 30, 1996; McDonnell Douglas Service Bulletin MD11-36-025 R01, Revision 01, dated July 31, 1997; and McDonnell Douglas Service Bulletin MD11-36-028, dated December 7, 1998; is approved by the Director of the Federal Register in accordance with 5 U.S.C. 552(a) and 1 CFR part 51.

(2) The incorporation by reference of McDonnell Douglas Alert Service Bulletin MD11-36A030, dated April 2, 1998, was approved previously by the Director of the Federal Register as of April 28, 1998 (63 FR 20066, April 23, 1998).

(3) Copies may be obtained from Boeing Commercial Aircraft Group, Long Beach Division, 3855 Lakewood Boulevard, Long Beach, California 90846, Attention: Technical Publications Business Administration, Dept. C1-L51 (2-60). Copies may be inspected at FAA, Transport Airplane Directorate, 1601 Lind Avenue, SW., Renton, Washington; or at the FAA, Los Angeles Aircraft Certification Office, 3960 Paramount Boulevard, Lakewood, California; or at the Office of the Federal Register, 800 North Capitol Street, NW., suite 700, Washington, DC.

Effective Date

(i) This amendment becomes effective on December 27, 2000.

Issued in Renton, Washington, on November 9, 2000.

Donald L. Riffin,

Acting Manager, Transport Airplane Directorate, Aircraft Certification Service.

[FR Doc. 00-29377 Filed 11-21-00; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Aviation Administration

14 CFR Part 39

[Docket No. 2000-NM-13-AD; Amendment 39-12002; AD 2000-23-29]

RIN 2120-AA64

Airworthiness Directives; Saab Model SAAB 340B Series Airplanes

AGENCY: Federal Aviation Administration, DOT.

ACTION: Final rule.

SUMMARY: This amendment adopts a new airworthiness directive (AD), applicable to certain Saab Model SAAB 340B series airplanes, that requires a one-time inspection to detect discrepancies of the flight idle stop override mechanism, and corrective

action, if necessary. 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 increased braking distance for landings that require the flight idle stop override, resulting from the combination of failure of the override mechanism and inability of the power levers to be moved below the flight idle position after touchdown.

DATES: Effective December 27, 2000. The incorporation by reference of certain publications, as listed in the regulations, was approved previously by the Director of the Federal Register as of May 19, 1998 (63 FR 18118, April 14, 1998).

ADDRESSES: The service information referenced in this AD may be obtained from Saab Aircraft AB, SAAB Aircraft Product Support, S-581.88, Linköping, Sweden. 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 certain Saab Model SAAB 340B series airplanes was published in the **Federal Register** on March 15, 2000 (65 FR 13921). That action proposed to require a one-time inspection to detect discrepancies of the flight idle stop override mechanism, and corrective action, if necessary.

Comment Received

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

Objection to the Proposal

One commenter, an operator, states that mandating the inspection proposed in this AD has no value and will not contribute to safety. The commenter offers several reasons, described below, for this assertion.

1. The commenter states that the cable that originally stuck [prompting issuance of a related FAA AD, AD 98-08-16, amendment 39-10465 (63 FR

18118, April 14, 1998)], along with the uplock switch and knob, is fully contained within the control quadrant installed on each airplane, and the quadrants are interchangeable among airplanes. The commenter considers it extremely doubtful that the same quadrants are still installed in the airplanes that are specified in the applicability of the proposed AD.

2. The commenter states that the proposed AD does not cover quadrants installed in airplanes with serial numbers above 413, nor does it cover quadrants installed in airplanes that were listed in the original applicability of AD 98-08-16. Yet those quadrants, although not covered in that AD, have the same flight idle stop override mechanism as those installed on airplanes specified in the applicability of the proposed AD, and the commenter asserts that the same safety concern should exist on those airplanes as well.

3. Additionally, the commenter notes the issuance of two other FAA AD's, AD 99-21-31, amendment 39-11377 (64 FR 56426, October 20, 1999), and AD 99-27-08, amendment 39-11489 (65 FR 209, January 4, 2000), that also address the control quadrants. In order to comply with the terminating action for those AD's, operators must remove the quadrant from the airplane, and the quadrant must be modified or replaced. The commenter therefore asserts that a quadrant installed on an airplane when AD 98-08-16 was issued would no longer be installed in its original, unmodified condition.

4. The commenter also states that a Maintenance Review Board (MRB) task already exists to perform a periodic operational check of the flight idle stop override mechanism on all airplanes. The commenter states that this check would find any stiff or frozen cables in the override system; therefore, the intent of the proposed AD is already being met.

FAA Response

The FAA infers that the commenter is requesting that the proposed AD be withdrawn. The FAA does not concur, for the reasons set forth below. Further, the FAA considers that reiteration of the requirements for compliance with airworthiness directives is necessary. After the compliance time specified in an AD has passed, all corrective actions required by that AD must have been accomplished in order to correct the unsafe condition. If an airplane is returned to a configuration that allows the unsafe condition to exist, that airplane is being operated contrary to the requirements of the AD, which is prohibited per section 39.3 of the

Federal Aviation Regulations (14 CFR 39.3). The FAA provides specific responses below to each of the commenter's assertions (numbered to correspond with the commenter's issues).

1. AD 98-08-16 refers to Saab Service Bulletin 340-76-041, dated May 29, 1997, and Revision 01, dated July 2, 1997, as the appropriate source of service information for the actions required by that AD. That service bulletin specifies that certain control quadrants (including those held as spares) are to be inspected, and repaired if necessary. Therefore, although control quadrants may have subsequently been interchanged among airplanes, the inspection and corrective actions required by AD 98-08-16 should have been accomplished for all affected quadrants. Additionally, the compliance time for that AD has already passed. If a quadrant is installed on an affected airplane after that date, and the quadrant has not been inspected per the requirements of AD 98-08-16, the airplane is being operated contrary to the requirements of that AD. No change to the final rule is necessary in this regard.

2. The FAA does not concur that additional airplanes are subject to the identified unsafe condition. Saab Service Bulletin 340-76-041 lists airplanes only through serial number (S/N) 413 in the effectivity; airplanes having higher S/N's did not need to be included in this effectivity because they were delivered with correctly functioning control quadrants installed. And, as stated above, for airplanes having higher S/N's that were affected by the requirements of AD 98-08-16, any quadrant installed after the compliance time should have been inspected according to the requirements of that AD. No change to the final rule is necessary in this regard.

3. The FAA acknowledges that other existing AD's may have required replacement of control quadrants with other quadrants. However, as stated above, after the compliance time for each AD has passed, the required corrective actions specified in each AD must have been accomplished for the affected airplanes, and for control quadrants subsequently installed on those airplanes. The FAA acknowledges that the one-time inspection required by this AD may have been previously accomplished as part of compliance with other AD's. In those cases, the requirements of this AD have been complied with, and no further action is required. No change to the final rule is necessary in this regard.

4. The FAA does not concur that the existing MRB task alone is adequate to address the unsafe condition identified in this AD, because the compliance time in the AD is much shorter than the time interval specified for the task in the MRB. However, the FAA has determined that the procedures specified in the MRB task for the operational check may also be used for compliance with the requirements of this AD. A **Note** has been added to the AD to give credit to operators that may have accomplished the MRB task prior to the effective date of this AD.

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 described previously. 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 31 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 actions, 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 \$1,860, 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 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 final rule does not have federalism implications under Executive Order 13132.

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:

2000-23-29 SAAB Aircraft AB:

Amendment 39-12002. Docket 2000-NM-13-AD.

Applicability: Model SAAB 340B series airplanes, certificated in any category; serial numbers -380 through -404 inclusive, -406 through -408 inclusive, and -410 through -413 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 (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 increased braking distance for landings that require the flight idle stop override, resulting from the combination of failure of the override mechanism and inability of the power levers to be moved below the flight idle position after touchdown, accomplish the following:

Inspection

(a) Within 30 days after the effective date of this AD, perform a one-time inspection of the flight idle stop override mechanism to detect any discrepancy, in accordance with Saab Service Bulletin 340-76-041, dated May 29, 1997, or Revision 01, dated July 2,

1997. If any discrepancy is found, prior to further flight, replace the control quadrant with a new or serviceable control quadrant in accordance with the service bulletin.

Note 2: Accomplishment, prior to the effective date of this AD, of an operational check, as specified in SAAB 340 Maintenance Review Board (MRB) task 761501, is an acceptable method of compliance with the one-time inspection requirements of paragraph (a) of this AD.

Alternative Methods of Compliance

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

Special Flight Permits

(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.

Incorporation by Reference

(d) The actions shall be done in accordance with Saab Service Bulletin 340-76-041, dated May 29, 1997; or Saab Service Bulletin 340-76-041, Revision 01, dated July 2, 1997. This incorporation by reference was approved previously by the Director of the Federal Register as of May 19, 1998 (63 FR 18118, April 14, 1998). Copies may be obtained from Saab Aircraft AB, SAAB Aircraft Product Support, S-581.88, Linköping, Sweden. 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 4: The subject of this AD is addressed in Swedish airworthiness directive 1-148, dated November 18, 1999.

Effective Date

(e) This amendment becomes effective on December 27, 2000.

Issued in Renton, Washington, on November 15, 2000.

Donald L. Riggins,

Acting Manager, Transport Airplane Directorate, Aircraft Certification Service.

[FR Doc. 00-29800 Filed 11-21-00; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Aviation Administration

14 CFR Part 71

[Airspace Docket No. 00-AWA-2]

RIN 2120-AA66

Revision to the Legal Description of the Shaw Air Force Base Class C Airspace Area; SC

AGENCY: Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), DOT.

ACTION: Final rule.

SUMMARY: This action revises the legal description of the Shaw Air Force Base (AFB), SC, Class C airspace area by changing the hours of area operation to be consistent with current operational requirements. This action designates the Class C airspace area to be effective during the specific days and hours of operation of the Shaw AFB Airport Traffic Control Tower (ATCT) as established in advance by a Notice to Airmen (NOTAM). The effective days and times will thereafter be continuously published in the Airport/Facility Directory. Additionally, the coordinates for the Sumter Municipal Airport, as published in the notice of proposed rulemaking for this action, were inadvertently listed in error. This action corrects the coordinates for the airport listed in the legal description for the Shaw AFB, SC, Class C airspace area. This action does not change the actual dimensions, configuration, or operating requirements of the Shaw AFB Class C airspace area.

EFFECTIVE DATE: January 25, 2001.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Terry Brown, Airspace and Rules Division, ATA-400, Office of Air Traffic Airspace Management, Federal Aviation Administration, 800 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20591; telephone: (202) 267-8783.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

On April 25, 2000, the FAA proposed to revise the published effective times for the Shaw AFB Class C airspace area (65 FR 24136). Because the Shaw AFB ATCT has reduced its hours of operation, it is necessary to revise the Class C airspace effective times to coincide with the times that Class C air traffic control services are available.

Interested parties were invited to participate in this rulemaking proceeding by submitting comments on the proposal to the FAA. No comments objecting to the proposal were received. However, an error was discovered in

coordinates for Sumter Municipal Airport as published in the legal description. Except for the correction to those coordinates, this amendment is the same as that proposed in the notice.

The Rule

This action amends 14 CFR part 71 by revising the legal description of the Shaw AFB Class C airspace area located at Shaw AFB, SC. This action revises the hours of operation for the Class C airspace area to align them with current airfield operations. The Shaw AFB Class C airspace area is designated effective during the specific days and hours of operation of the Shaw AFB ATCT as established in advance by NOTAM. This action is a technical amendment to the legal description and does not change the actual dimensions, configuration, or operating requirements of the Shaw AFB Class C airspace area. During the times that Shaw ATCT is not operational, the airspace reverts to Class E airspace since one of the requirements for Class C airspace is an operational ATCT. The radar approach control operating hours remain unchanged. Jacksonville Center assumes the airspace when Shaw radar approach control closes. In addition, this amendment corrects the coordinates, as published in the notice of proposed rulemaking for this action, for the Sumter Municipal Airport, which were inadvertently listed in error in the legal description for the Shaw AFB, SC, Class C airspace area.

The coordinates for this airspace docket are based on North American Datum 83. Class C airspace areas are published in paragraph 4000 of FAA Order 7400.9H, dated September 1, 2000, and effective September 16, 2000, which is incorporated by reference in 14 CFR 71.1. The Class C airspace area listed in this document will be published subsequently in the Order.

The FAA has determined that this regulation only involves an established body of technical regulations for which frequent and routine amendments are necessary to keep them operationally current. Therefore, this regulation: (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) does not warrant preparation of a regulatory evaluation as the anticipated impact is so minimal. Since this is a routine matter that will only affect air traffic procedures and air navigation, it is certified that this rule, when promulgated, will not have a significant economic impact on a substantial