

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:

Empresa Brasileira de Aeronautica S.A. (EMBRAER): Docket 2000-NM-122-AD.

Applicability: Model EMB-120, EMB-120ER, and EMB-120RT series airplanes; serial numbers 120004 and 120006 through 120321 inclusive; certificated in any category; on which EMBRAER Service Bulletin 120-24-0051, dated March 1, 1994, Revision 1, dated May 5, 1994, Revision 2, dated May 31, 1994, Revision 3, dated November 3, 1994, or Revision 4, dated March 8, 1995, or the production equivalent, has been accomplished.

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 contact between one of the bolts that attaches the direct current (DC) relay box on the left-hand (LH) side of the airplane (hereinafter referred to as the "LH DC relay box") and one of the power terminals of electrical emergency contactor 2 (K0519), which could result in a short circuit in the LH DC relay box, and consequent partial loss of the electrical system, and degraded operation of airplane systems, accomplish the following:

Bolt/Washer Removal and Hole Sealing

(a) Within 75 flight hours after the effective date of this AD, remove the bolt and washer on the LH DC relay box that is in the area of electrical emergency contactor 2 (K0519) and seal the corresponding fastener hole, in accordance with EMBRAER Alert Service Bulletin 120-24-A057, dated November 14, 1996. If no fastener is installed, seal the corresponding fastener hole only, in accordance with the alert service bulletin.

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, Atlanta Aircraft Certification Office (ACO), FAA, Small 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, Atlanta ACO.

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

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.

Note 3: The subject of this AD is addressed in Brazilian airworthiness directive 96-12-02, dated December 13, 1996.

Issued in Renton, Washington, on June 21, 2000.

Donald L. Riggins,

Acting Manager, Transport Airplane Directorate, Aircraft Certification Service.

[FR Doc. 00-16236 Filed 6-26-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-13-P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Aviation Administration

14 CFR Part 39

[Docket No. 2000-NM-132-AD]

RIN 2120-AA64

Airworthiness Directives; Learjet Model 45 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 Learjet Model 45 series airplanes. This proposal would require repetitive application of grease to the rotating disk assembly of the nose landing gear squat switch mechanism. Application of grease to the squat switch assembly is necessary to prevent moisture contamination and subsequent formation of ice. Such ice formation could result in bending or damaging of the nose landing gear squat switch assembly, which could drive the nose wheel to an uncommanded angle against the force of the steering system. This condition, if not corrected, could result in the airplane departing from the runway at high speeds during landing. **DATES:** Comments must be received by August 11, 2000.

ADDRESSES: Submit comments in triplicate to the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), Transport Airplane Directorate, ANM-114, Attention: Rules Docket No. 2000-NM-132-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. 2000-NM-132-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 Learjet Inc., One Learjet Way, Wichita, Kansas 67209-2942. This information may be examined at the FAA, Transport Airplane Directorate, 1601 Lind Avenue, SW., Renton, Washington; or at the FAA, Small Airplane Directorate,

Wichita Aircraft Certification Office, 1801 Airport Road, Room 100, Mid-Continent Airport, Wichita, Kansas.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Shane Bertish, Aerospace Engineer, Systems and Equipment Branch, ACE-116W, FAA, Small Airplane Directorate, Wichita Aircraft Certification Office, 1801 Airport Road, Room 100, Mid-Continent Airport, Wichita, Kansas 67209; telephone (316) 946-4156; fax (316) 946-4407.

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.

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 notice must submit a self-addressed, stamped postcard on which the following statement is made: "Comments to Docket Number 2000-NM-132-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 No.

2000-NM-132-AD, 1601 Lind Avenue, SW., Renton, Washington 98055-4056.

Discussion

The manufacturer of Learjet Model 45 series airplanes has conducted tests in a laboratory that indicate a potential unsafe condition exists involving damage or bending of the squat switch assembly of the nose landing gear. Freezing of moisture in the squat switch assembly may cause restriction of movement of the subcomponents of the assembly and result in bending or damage of the squat switch assembly. (If certain movement is restricted, the loads imposed from the nose landing gear exceed the structural capability of the squat switch assembly and bending and damage occur.) The laboratory tests indicate that appropriate application of grease to the squat switch assembly will prevent moisture contamination of the assembly. Bending and damage of the squat switch assembly could result in driving the nose wheel to an uncommanded angle against the force of the steering system. This condition, if not corrected, could result in the airplane departing from the runway at high speeds during landing.

Explanation of Relevant Service Information

The FAA has reviewed and approved Bombardier Aerospace Service Information Letter SIL 32-016, dated March 30, 2000, which describes procedures for lubricating the rotating-disc assembly of the nose landing gear squat switch mechanism.

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 information described previously.

Interim Action

This is considered to be interim action. The manufacturer has advised that it currently is developing a modification that will positively address the unsafe condition addressed by this AD. Once this modification is developed, approved, and parts are available, the FAA may consider additional rulemaking.

Cost Impact

There are approximately 69 Learjet Model 45 series airplanes of the affected design in the worldwide fleet. The FAA estimates that 45 airplanes of U.S. registry would be affected by this

proposed AD, that it would take approximately 1 work hour 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 \$2,700, or \$60 per airplane, per application.

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:

Learjet: Docket 2000–NM–132–AD.

Applicability: Model 45 series airplanes, serial numbers 45–001 through 45–114 inclusive, 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 the airplane from departing the runway at high speeds during landing due to bending and damage to the squat switch assembly of the nose landing gear; accomplish the following:

Application of Grease

(a) Within 30 days after the effective date of this AD, apply grease to the rotating disk assembly of the squat switch mechanism of the nose wheel in accordance with Bombardier Aerospace Service Information Letter SIL 32–016, dated March 30, 2000. Thereafter, repeat this application at intervals not to exceed 30 days.

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, Wichita Aircraft Certification Office (ACO), FAA, Small 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, Wichita ACO.

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

Special Flight Permit

(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 June 21, 2000.

Donald L. Riggin,

Acting Manager, Transport Airplane Directorate, Aircraft Certification Service.

[FR Doc. 00–16235 Filed 6–26–00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910–13–P

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

38 CFR Part 3

RIN 2900–AJ55

Certification of Evidence for Proof of Service

AGENCY: Department of Veterans Affairs.

ACTION: Proposed rule.

SUMMARY: This document proposes to amend the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) adjudication regulations concerning the nature of evidence that VA will accept as proof of military service. Currently, VA will only accept original service documents or copies of service documents issued by the service department or by a public custodian of records. This change would authorize VA to accept photocopies of service documents as evidence of military service if they are certified to be true copies of documents acceptable to VA by an accredited agent, attorney, or service organization representative who has successfully completed VA-prescribed training on military records. The intended effect of this amendment is to streamline the processing of claims for benefits.

DATES: Comments must be received on or before August 28, 2000.

ADDRESSES: Mail or hand deliver written comments to: Director, Office of Regulations Management (02D), Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Ave., NW., Room 1154, Washington, DC 20420; or fax comments to (202) 273–9289; or e-mail comments to “OGCRegulations@mail.va.gov”. Comments should indicate that they are submitted in response to “RIN 2900–AJ55.” All comments received will be available for public inspection in the Office of Regulations Management, Room 1158, between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday (except holidays).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Bill Russo, Regulations Staff, Compensation and Pension Service, Veterans Benefits Administration, 810 Vermont Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20420, telephone (202) 273–7210.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The cornerstone of eligibility to VA benefits

is active military, naval or air service. VA regulations at 38 CFR 3.203 establish the nature of the evidence VA will accept as proof of active military service. In general, those regulations require original service documents; VA will accept copies of those documents only if the copies are issued by the military service department or by a public custodian of records.

VA has initiated a business process reengineering (BPR) effort to improve the adjudication of claims for VA benefits. Two goals of this BPR effort are to establish a partnership with VA accredited representatives and to improve the timeliness of claims processing. Therefore, VA proposes to accept copies of discharge documents as evidence of military service, if they are certified as being true and exact copies of the originals by an accredited agent, attorney, or service organization representative who has successfully completed VA-prescribed training on military records.

We propose to amend 38 CFR 3.203 to allow VA to accept photocopies of service documents as proof of service if they are certified by a claimant's representative who has successfully completed VA-prescribed training on military records, to be true copies of the original documents. This proposed amendment will help streamline claims processing because it will reduce the number of instances where VA must seek verification of military service from the service department. We believe this can be done without compromising program integrity.

Under this proposed amendment, the claimant's representative must certify that the document is a true and exact copy either of an original document or of a copy issued by the service department or a public custodian of records.

However, under the amendment, VA would accept such certification only from VA accredited representatives who have successfully completed VA-prescribed training. These are representatives who, under the authority of 38 U.S.C. 5902 and 5904 and 38 CFR 14.626–14.629, the Secretary has authorized to prepare, present, and prosecute claims under laws administered by VA. Specifically, this includes accredited agents, attorneys, or accredited representatives of service organizations recognized by VA.

The Secretary hereby certifies that the adoption of the proposed rule would not have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities as they are defined in the Regulatory Flexibility Act (RFA), 5 U.S.C. 601–612.