

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:

Pratt & Whitney: Docket No. 2000-NE-25-AD.

Applicability: This airworthiness directive (AD) is applicable to Pratt & Whitney (PW) models PW4074, PW4077, PW4077D, and PW4090 turbofan engines with 2nd stage high pressure turbine (HPT) air seal assembly part number (P/N) 50L976 or P/N 50L960 installed. These engines are installed on but not limited to Boeing 777 series airplanes.

Note 1: This AD applies to each engine 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 engines 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 (d) 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 2nd stage HPT air seal assembly failure that could result in uncontained engine failure, accomplish the following:

Calculation of Service Limits

(a) Within 30 days of the effective date of this AD, and then each calendar month thereafter, determine the hour-to-cycle ratio of 2nd stage HPT air seal assemblies based on the hours and cycles accumulated in the previous month in accordance with Paragraph 1 of the Accomplishment Instructions for air seal management of PW Alert Service Bulletin (ASB) No. PW4G-112-A72-233, dated August 25, 2000.

Borescope Inspections

(b) For 2nd stage HPT air seal assemblies, determine the initial inspection time and repetitive inspection interval in cycles, in accordance with Paragraph 2 of the Accomplishment Instructions for air seal management of PW ASB No. PW4G-112-A72-233, dated August 25, 2000. Perform borescope inspections of the 2nd stage HPT air seal assembly for cracks, and remove HPT air seal assemblies from service if cracked, in accordance with the On-Wing Procedure section of Accomplishment Instructions of PW ASB No. PW4G-112-A72-233, dated August 25, 2000.

New Cycle Limits

(c) Determine new cycle limits for 2nd stage HPT air seal assemblies in accordance

with Paragraph 3 of the Accomplishment Instructions for air seal management of PW ASB No. PW4G-112-A72-233, dated August 25, 2000, and remove from service 2nd stage HPT air seal assemblies prior to exceeding those limits.

Alternative Methods of Compliance

(d) 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, Engine Certification Office (ECO). Operators shall submit their request through an appropriate Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Principal Maintenance Inspector, who may add comments and then send it to the Manager, ECO.

Note 2: Information concerning the existence of approved alternative methods of compliance with this airworthiness directive, if any, may be obtained from the ECO.

Special Flight Permits

(e) Special flight permits may be issued in accordance with §§ 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 Burlington, Massachusetts, on December 15, 2000.

David A. Downey,

Acting Manager, Engine and Propeller Directorate, Aircraft Certification Service.

[FR Doc. 00-32879 Filed 12-26-00; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Aviation Administration

14 CFR Part 39

[Docket No. 99-CE-89-AD]

RIN 2120-AA64

Airworthiness Directives; DG Flugzeugbau GmbH Model DG-500MB Sailplanes

AGENCY: Federal Aviation Administration, DOT.

ACTION: Notice of proposed rulemaking (NPRM).

SUMMARY: This document proposes to adopt a new airworthiness directive (AD) that would apply to certain DG Flugzeugbau GmbH (DG Flugzeugbau) Model DG-500MB sailplanes equipped with a SOLO 2625 02 engine.

The proposed AD would require you to remove the engine from the propeller mount; install additional access holes in the propeller mount; install the modified engine to the propeller mount; do a ground test run; and replace the digital engine indicator circuit breaker with a new circuit breaker. The proposed AD is the result of mandatory

continuing airworthiness information (CAI) issued by the airworthiness authority for the Federal Republic of Germany. The actions specified by the proposed AD are intended to correct propeller drive belt tension that could cause damage to the engine crankshaft and to replace an inadequate circuit breaker. This could lead to engine failure and loss of sailplane control.

DATES: The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) must receive any comments on this proposed rule by February 1, 2001.

ADDRESSES: Send three copies of your comments to FAA, Central Region, Office of the Regional Counsel, Attention: Rules Docket No. 99-CE-89-AD, 901 Locust, Room 506, Kansas City, Missouri 64106. Comments may be inspected at this location between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m., Monday through Friday, except holidays.

You may get service information that applies to the proposed AD from DG Flugzeugbau GmbH, Postbox 41 20, D-76646 Bruchsal, Federal Republic of Germany; telephone: +49 7257-890; facsimile: +49 7257-8922. You may also read this information at the Rules Docket at the address above.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Mike Kiesov, Aerospace Engineer, FAA, Small Airplane Directorate, 901 Locust, Room 301, Kansas City, Missouri 64106; telephone: (816) 329-4144; facsimile: (816) 329-4090.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Comments Invited

How do I comment on the proposed AD? We invite your comments on the proposed rule. You may send whatever written data, views, or arguments you choose. You need to include the rule's docket number and send your comments in triplicate to the address specified under the caption **ADDRESSES**. We will consider all comments received by the closing date specified above, before acting on the proposed rule. We may change the proposals contained in this notice in light of the comments received.

Are there any specific portions of the proposed AD I should pay attention to? The FAA specifically invites comments on the overall regulatory, economic, environmental, and energy aspects of the proposed rule that might require a change to the proposed rule. You may look at all comments we receive. We will file a report in the Rules Docket that summarizes each FAA contact with the public that concerns the substantive parts of this proposal.

We are re-examining the writing style we currently use in regulatory

documents, in response to the Presidential memorandum of June 1, 1998. That memorandum requires federal agencies to communicate more clearly with the public. We are interested in your comments on the ease of understanding this document, and any other suggestions you might have to improve the clarity of FAA communications that affect you. You can get more information about the Presidential memorandum and the plain language initiative at <http://www.faa.gov/language/>.

How can I be sure FAA receives my comment? If you want us to acknowledge the receipt of your comments, you must include a self-addressed, stamped postcard. On the postcard, write "Comments to Docket No. 99-CE-89-AD." We will date stamp and mail the postcard back to you.

Discussion

What events have caused this proposed AD? The Luftfahrt-Bundesamt (LBA), which is the airworthiness authority for the Federal Republic of Germany, notified FAA that an unsafe condition may exist on all DG Flugzeugbau Model DG-500MB sailplanes equipped with a SOLO 2625 02 engine. The LBA reports that the service history for the SOLO 2625 02 engine shows a need to modify the front crank shaft bearing. Additionally, the digital engine indicator circuit breaker amperage is too low for use and needs replacement.

What are the consequences if the condition is not corrected? The actions specified by the proposed AD are

intended to correct propeller drive belt tension that could cause damage to the engine crankshaft, and to replace an inadequate circuit breaker. Such failure could result in loss of power and consequently the loss of sailplane control.

Is there service information that applies to this subject? DG Flugzeugbau has issued: Technical Note No. 843/13, dated November 3, 1999. SOLO, the engine manufacturer, has issued Technical Note 4600-1.

What are the provisions of these technical notes? These technical notes include procedures for:

- Removing the engine from the propeller mount;
- Modifying the engine;
- Installing additional access holes in the propeller mount;
- Installing the modified engine to the propeller mount;
- Doing a ground test run; and
- Replacing the digital engine indicator circuit breaker with a new circuit breaker.

What action did LBA take? The LBA classified this DG Flugzeugbau technical note as mandatory and issued German AD Number 1999-383, dated December 1, 1999, to ensure the continued airworthiness of these sailplanes in Germany.

Was this in accordance with the bilateral airworthiness agreement? These sailplane models are manufactured in Germany and are type certificated for operation in the United States under the provisions of section 21.29 of the Federal Aviation Regulations (14 CFR 21.29) and the

applicable bilateral airworthiness agreement. Complying with this bilateral airworthiness agreement, the LBA has kept FAA informed of the situation described above.

The FAA's Determination and an Explanation of the Provisions of the Proposed AD

What has FAA decided? The FAA has examined the findings of the LBA; reviewed all available information, including the technical note referenced above; and determined that:

- The unsafe condition referenced in this document exists or could develop on other DG Flugzeugbau Model DG-500MB sailplanes of the same type design that are equipped with a SOLO 2625 02 engine;
- The actions specified in the previously-referenced technical note should be accomplished on the affected sailplanes; and
- AD action should be taken in order to correct this unsafe condition.

What would the proposed AD require? This proposed AD would require you to incorporate the actions in the previously referenced technical notes.

Cost Impact

How many sailplanes would the proposed AD impact? We estimate that the proposed AD affects 1 sailplane in the U.S. registry.

What would be the cost impact of the proposed AD on owners/operators of the affected sailplanes? We estimate the following costs to do the proposed modification:

| Labor cost | Parts cost | Total cost per sailplane | Total cost on U.S. operators |
|--|--|--------------------------|------------------------------|
| 12 workhours × \$60 per hour = \$720 | The manufacturer will do the engine modification and provide the new circuit breaker under warranty. | \$720. | \$720 × 1 = \$720. |

Regulatory Impact

Would this proposed AD impact various entities? The regulations proposed here 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 proposed rule would not have federalism implications under Executive Order 13132.

Would this proposed AD involve a significant rule or regulatory action? For the reasons discussed above, I certify that this proposed 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) if issued, 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 has been placed 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, under 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. FAA amends § 39.13 by adding a new airworthiness directive (AD) to read as follows:

DG Flugzeugbau GMBH: Docket No. 99–CE–89–AD.

(a) *What sailplanes are affected by this AD?* This AD affects Model DG–500MB

sailplanes, all serial numbers equipped with a SOLO 2625 02 engine, that are certificated in any category.

(b) *Who must comply with this AD?*

Anyone who wishes to operate any of the above sailplanes must comply with this AD.

(c) *What problem does this AD address?*

The actions specified by this AD are intended to correct propeller drive belt tension that

could cause damage to the engine crankshaft and to replace an inadequate circuit breaker. Such failure could lead to engine failure and loss of control of the sailplane.

(d) *What actions must I accomplish to address this problem?* To address this problem, you must do the following, unless already done:

| Actions | Compliance time | Procedures |
|---|---|---|
| (1) Remove the engine from the propeller mount. | Within the next 25 hours time-in-following service (TIS) after the effective date of this AD. | Do this action following the maintenance manual. Ship engine to the engine manufacturer, SOLO, or a licensed repair station, for modification according to the SOLO Technical Note (TN) 4600–1. |
| (2) Install additional access holes in the propeller mount. | Before further flight after removing the engine and before installing the modified engine to the propeller mount. | Do this action following drawing 5M102 of DG Flugzeugbau Technical Note 843/13, dated November 3, 1999. |
| (3) Install the modified engine to the propeller mount. | Before further flight after removing the engine and after the engine modification. | Do this action following the maintenance manual. |
| (4) Do a ground test run | Before further flight after the previous action .. | Do this action following DG Flugzeugbau Technical Note 843/13, dated November 3, 1999. |
| (5) Replace the digital engine indicator (DEI) circuit breaker with a new 5 ampere Klixon 7277–2–5A circuit breaker (or FAA-approved equivalent part number). | Before further flight after the previous actions | Do this action following DG Flugzeugbau Technical Note 843/13, dated November 3, 1999. |
| (6) Do not install any engine that has not been modified following SOLO TN 4600–1. | As of the effective date of this AD | Not Applicable. |
| (7) Do not install any DEI circuit breaker that is not a 5 ampere Klixon 7277–2–5A circuit breaker (or FAA-approved equivalent part number). | As of the effective date of this AD | Not Applicable. |

(e) *Can I comply with this AD in any other way?* You may use an alternative method of compliance or adjust the compliance time if:

(1) Your alternative method of compliance provides an equivalent level of safety; and

(2) The Manager, Small Airplane Directorate, approves your alternative. Send your request through an FAA Principal Maintenance Inspector, who may add comments and then send it to the Manager, Small Airplane Directorate.

Note 1: This AD applies to each sailplane identified in paragraph (a) of this AD, regardless of whether it has been modified, altered, or repaired in the area subject to the requirements of this AD. For sailplanes 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 (e) 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 you have not eliminated the unsafe condition, specific actions you propose to address it.

(f) *Where can I get information about any already-approved alternative methods of compliance?* Contact Mike Kiesov, Aerospace Engineer, FAA, Small Airplane Directorate, 901 Locust, Room 301, Kansas City, Missouri 64106; telephone: (816) 329–4144; facsimile: (816) 329–4090.

(g) *What if I need to fly the sailplane to another location to comply with this AD?* The FAA can issue a special flight permit under sections 21.197 and 21.199 of the Federal

Aviation Regulations (14 CFR 21.197 and 21.199) to operate your sailplane to a location where you can accomplish the requirements of this AD.

(h) *How do I get copies of the documents referenced in this AD?* You may get copies of the documents referenced in this AD from DG Flugzeugbau GmbH, Postbox 41 20, D–76646 Bruchsal, Federal Republic of Germany. You may read these documents at FAA, Central Region, Office of the Regional Counsel, 901 Locust, Room 506, Kansas City, Missouri 64106.

Note 2: The subject of this AD is addressed in German AD 1999–383, dated December 1, 1999.

Issued in Kansas City, Missouri, on December 19, 2000.

Michael Gallagher,

Manager, Small Airplane Directorate, Aircraft Certification Service.

[FR Doc. 00–32878 Filed 12–26–00; 8:45 am]

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POSTAL SERVICE

39 CFR Part 266

Privacy Act of 1974; Implementation

AGENCY: Postal Service.

ACTION: Proposed rule.

SUMMARY: The Postal Service is proposing to amend its regulations

implementing the Privacy Act of 1974, 5 U.S.C. 552a. This amendment modifies existing regulations (39 CFR 266.9) to exempt system of records, Office of Inspector General-Investigative File System, USPS 300.010, from certain provisions of the Act and corresponding agency regulations.

DATES: Comments must be received on or before January 26, 2001.

ADDRESSES: Written comments should be addressed to the Manager, Finance Administration/FOIA, Postal Service, 475 L'Enfant Plaza SW, Room 8141, Washington, DC 20260–5202. Copies of all written comments will be available Monday through Friday for public inspection and photocopying between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. at the above address.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Gladis Griffith, Legal Director, Office of Inspector General (703) 248–4683.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Office of Inspector General (OIG) is a component of the Postal Service that performs as one of its principal functions investigations into violations of criminal law in connection with Postal Service programs and operations, pursuant to the Inspector General Act of 1978, as amended, 5 U.S.C. App.3. The OIG Investigative File System falls within the scope of subsections (j)(2), (k)(2), and (k)(5) of the Act.