

It would take approximately 2 work hours per airplane to accomplish the proposed modification of the No. 2 propeller de-ice timer, at an average labor rate of \$60 per work hour. The cost for required parts would be minimal. Based on these figures, the cost impact of this proposed modification on U.S. operators is estimated to be \$23,640, or \$120 per airplane.

The cost impact figures discussed above are 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 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:

Bombardier, Inc. (Formerly de Havilland, Inc.): Docket 2001–NM–391–AD.

Applicability: Model DHC–8–102, –103, –106, –201, –202, –301, –311, and –315 airplanes; certificated in any category; having serial numbers 003 through 559 inclusive.

Compliance: Required as indicated, unless accomplished previously.

To prevent incorrect altitude information transmitted by the Mode S transponder and simultaneous loss of the Traffic Alert and Collision Avoidance System (TCAS), and increasing the possibility of an air traffic conflict, accomplish the following:

Modifications

(a) Within 6 months after the effective date of this AD, accomplish the actions specified in paragraphs (a)(1) and (a)(2) of this AD.

(1) Modify the No. 3 electrical equipment panel behind the avionics rack (including changing the spacer lengths for the installation of the propeller timer units and the main harness run, and securing the wiring and harness in close proximity by installing 5 tie wraps to avoid fouling conditions) per Bombardier Service Bulletin 8–34–200, dated June 26, 2001.

(2) Modify the No. 2 propeller de-ice timer (including replacing the existing spacers that support the timer with shorter spacers) per Bombardier Service Bulletin 8–30–36, dated July 13, 2000.

Alternative Methods of Compliance

(b) In accordance with 14 CFR 39.19, the Manager, New York Aircraft Certification Office (ACO), FAA, is authorized to approve alternative methods of compliance for this AD.

Note 1: The subject of this AD is addressed in Canadian airworthiness directive CF–2001–38, dated October 11, 2001.

Issued in Renton, Washington, on May 19, 2003.

Vi L. Lipski,

*Manager, Transport Airplane Directorate,
Aircraft Certification Service.*

[FR Doc. 03–12964 Filed 5–22–03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910–13–P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Aviation Administration

14 CFR Part 71

RIN 2120–AA66

[Docket No. FAA 2003–15061; Airspace
Docket No. ASD 03–ASW–1]

Proposed Revision of Federal Airways V–13 and V–407; Harlingen, TX

AGENCY: Federal Aviation
Administration (FAA), DOT.

ACTION: Notice of proposed rulemaking.

SUMMARY: This action proposes to revise Federal Airway 13 (V–13) northeast of the McAllen, TX, Very High Frequency Omni-directional Range/Distance Measuring Equipment (VOR/DME) by realigning the airway to intersect with V–163 south of the Corpus Christi, TX, Very High Frequency Omni-directional Range/Tactical Air Navigation (VORTAC) rather than proceeding to the Harlingen, TX, VOR/DME. Additionally, this action proposes to revise the point of origin of V–407 from the Harlingen VOR/DME to the Brownsville, TX, VORTAC. Also, this action proposes to revise V–407 north of the Harlingen VOR/DME to reflect a change of the radial of the airway. The FAA is proposing this action due to the relocation of the Harlingen VOR/DME and to enhance the management of aircraft operations over the Harlingen, TX, area.

DATES: Comments must be received on or before July 11, 2003.

ADDRESSES: Send comments on this proposal to the Docket Management System, U.S. Department of Transportation, Room Plaza 401, 400 Seventh Street, SW., Washington, DC 20590–0001. You must identify docket numbers FAA–2003–15061/Airspace Docket No. 03–ASW–1, at the beginning of your comments.

You may also submit comments on the Internet at <http://dms.dot.gov>. You may review the public docket containing the proposal, any comments received, and any final disposition in person in the Dockets Office between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays. The Docket Office (telephone 1–800–647–5527) is on the plaza level of the Department of Transportation NASSIF Building at the above address.

An informal docket may also be examined during normal business hours at the office of the Regional Air Traffic Division, Federal Aviation Administration, 2601 Meacham Blvd; Fort Worth, TX 76193–0500.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Steve Rohring, 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:**Comments Invited**

Interested parties are invited to participate in this proposed rulemaking by submitting such written data, views, or arguments as they may desire. Comments that provide the factual basis supporting the views and suggestions presented are particularly helpful in developing reasoned regulatory decisions on the proposal. Comments are specifically invited on the overall regulatory, aeronautical, economic, environmental, and energy-related aspects of the proposal. Communications should identify both docket numbers and be submitted in triplicate to the address listed above. Commenters wishing the FAA to acknowledge receipt of their comments on this notice must submit with those comments a self-addressed, stamped postcard on which the following statement is made: "Comments to Docket No. FAA 2003-15061/Airspace Docket No. 03-ASW-1." The postcard will be date/time stamped and returned to the commenter. All communications received on or before the specified closing date for comments will be considered before taking action on the proposed rule. The proposal contained in this notice may be changed in light of comments received. All comments submitted will be available for examination in the public docket both before and after the closing date for comments. A report summarizing each substantive public contact with FAA personnel concerned with this rulemaking will be filed in the docket.

Availability of NPRM's

An electronic copy of this document may be downloaded through the Internet at <http://dms.dot.gov>. Recently published rulemaking documents can also be accessed through the FAA's Web page at <http://www.faa.gov> or the Superintendent of Document's Web page at <http://www.access.gpo.gov/nara>.

Additionally, any person may obtain a copy of this notice by submitting a request to the Federal Aviation Administration, Office of Air Traffic Airspace Management, 800 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20591, or by calling (202) 267-8783. Communications must identify both docket numbers for this notice. Persons interested in being

placed on a mailing list for future NPRM's should call the FAA's Office of Rulemaking, (202) 267-9677, for a copy of Advisory Circular No. 11-2A, Notice of Proposed Rulemaking Distribution System, which describes the application procedure.

Background

The FAA is relocating the Harlingen VOR/DME approximately 8 nautical miles to the southeast of its current location. As a part of that effort, the FAA plans to realign V-13 northeast of the McAllen VOR/DME to intersect with V-163 south of the Corpus Christi VORTAC. Additionally, the FAA plans to revise the point of origin of V-407 from the Harlingen VOR/DME to the Brownsville VORTAC and to revise a segment of V-407 north of the Harlingen VOR/DME from the current Harlingen VOR/DME 357° radial to the new Harlingen VOR/DME 351° radial. With this revision, the point at which V-407 intersects V-20 (JIMIE intersection) will remain the same.

The Proposal

The FAA is proposing to amend part 71 of the Federal Aviation Regulations (14 CFR part 71) to revise V-13 and V-407 in the Harlingen, TX, area. Specifically, this action proposes to realign V-13 northeast of the McAllen VOR/DME to intersect with V-163 south of the Corpus Christi VORTAC; to revise the point of origin of V-407 from the Harlingen VOR/DME to the Brownsville VORTAC; and to revise V-407 north of the Harlingen VOR/DME to reflect the change of radial due to the relocation of the Harlingen VOR/DME. This action is necessary due to the relocation of the Harlingen VOR/DME and to enhance the management of aircraft operations over the Harlingen, TX, area.

Federal airways are published in paragraph 6010(a) of FAA Order 7400.9K dated August 30, 2002, and effective September 16, 2002, which is incorporated by reference in 14 CFR 71.1. The Federal airways listed in this document would be published subsequently in the Order.

The FAA has determined that this proposed regulation only involves an established body of technical regulations for which frequent and routine amendments are necessary to keep them operationally current. Therefore, this proposed regulation: (1) Is not a "significant regulatory action" under Executive Order 12866; (2) is not a "significant rule" under Department of Transportation (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 number of small entities under the criteria of the Regulatory Flexibility Act.

List of Subjects in 14 CFR Part 71

Airspace, Incorporation by reference, Navigation (air).

The Proposed Amendment

In consideration of the foregoing, the Federal Aviation Administration proposes to amend 14 CFR part 71 as follows:

PART 71—DESIGNATION OF CLASS A, CLASS B, CLASS C, CLASS D, AND CLASS E, AIRSPACE AREAS; AIRWAYS; ROUTES; AND REPORTING POINTS

1. The authority citation for part 71 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 49 U.S.C. 106(g), 40103, 40113, 40120; E.O. 10854, 24 FR 9565, 3 CFR, 1959-1963 Comp., p. 389.

§ 71.1 [Amended]

2. The incorporation by reference in 14 CFR 71.1 of FAA Order 7400.9K, Airspace Designations and Reporting Points, dated August 30, 2002, and effective September 16, 2002, is amended as follows:

Paragraph 6010(a) Domestic VOR Federal Airways

* * * * *

V-13 [Revised]

From McAllen, TX, via INT McAllen 060°T(051°M) radial and Corpus Christi, TX, 178°T(169°M) radials; Corpus Christi; INT Corpus Christi 039° and Palacios, TX, 241° radials; Palacios; Humble, TX; Lufkin, TX; Belcher, LA; Texarkana, AR; Rich Mountain, OK; Fort Smith, AR; INT Fort Smith 006° and Razorback, AR, 190° radials; Razorback; Neosho, MO; Butler, MO; Napoleon, MO; Lamoni, IA; Des Moines, IA; Mason City, IA; Farmington, MN; INT Farmington 017° and Siren, WI, 218° radials; Siren; Duluth, MN; to Thunder Bay, ON, Canada. The airspace outside the United States is excluded.

* * * * *

V-407 [Revised]

From Brownsville, TX; Harlingen, TX; via INT Harlingen 351°T(346°M) and Corpus Christi, TX, 193°T(184°M) radials; Corpus Christi; via INT Corpus Christi 039° and Palacios, TX, 241° radials; Palacios; via INT Palacios 017° and Humble, TX, 242° radials; Humble; Daisetta, TX; Lufkin, TX; Elm Grove, LA; to El Dorado, AR.

* * * * *

Issued in Washington, DC, on May 15, 2003.

Reginald C. Matthews,

Manager, Airspace and Rules Division.

[FR Doc. 03-13036 Filed 5-22-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-13-P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Aviation Administration

14 CFR Part 91

[Docket No. FAA-2003-15230]

Call for Information on Supersonic Aircraft Noise

AGENCY: Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), DOT.

ACTION: Request for information and notice of workshop.

SUMMARY: The FAA is soliciting technical information from other Federal agencies, industries, universities, and other interested parties on the mitigation of sonic boom from supersonic aircraft. The FAA is trying to determine whether there is sufficient new data supported by flight over land. This document solicits information on the latest research and development activities directed at mitigating sonic boom. The FAA may use this information of future rulemaking actions.

DATES: Send your comments on or before September 30, 2003.

ADDRESSES: Address your comments to the Docket Management System, U.S. Department of Transportation, Room Plaza 401, 400 Seventh Street, SW., Washington, DC 20590-0001. You must identify the docket number FAA-2003-15230 at the beginning of your comments, and you should submit two copies of your comments. If you wish to receive confirmation that FAA received your comments, include a self-addressed, stamped postcard.

You may also submit comments through the Internet to <http://dms.dot.gov>. You may review the public docket containing comments to this notice in person in the Docket Office between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays. The Dockets Office is on the plaza level of the NASSIF Building at the Department of Transportation at the above address. Also, you may review public dockets on the Internet at <http://dms.dot.gov>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Laurette Fisher, Office of Environment and Energy (AEE-100), Federal Aviation Administration, 800 Independence

Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20591; telephone (202) 267-3561; facsimile (202) 267-5594.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Comments Invited

The FAA invites interested persons to participate in this effort by submitting written comments, data, or views. We also invite comments relating to the economic, environmental, energy, or federalism impacts that might result if this effort resulted in amending FAA sonic boom regulations.

We will file in the docket all comments we receive, and the docket is available for public inspection before and after the comment closing date. If you wish to review the docket in person, go to the address in the **ADDRESSES** section of this preamble between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays. You may also review the docket using the Internet at the web address in the **ADDRESSES** section.

Background

The FAA uses the term sonic boom to refer to a high-pressure air disturbance directed toward the ground by an aircraft flying supersonically and creating noise unacceptable to the public. Supersonic flight over land by civil aircraft is prohibited in the United States.

Supersonic Aircraft Regulations

The current regulations applicable to supersonic aircraft are found in 14 CFR part 36, Subpart D, "Noise Limits for Supersonic Transport Category Airplanes," and 14 CFR part 91, Subpart I, "Operating Noise Limits." The noise certification levels for the Concorde airplane are in part 36. This regulation requires that the noise levels of the airplane must be reduced to the lowest levels that are economically reasonable, technologically practicable, and appropriate for a Concorde type design.

Part 91 prohibits civil aircraft operation at greater than Mach 1 over the United States. Part 91 also imposes flight limitations to ensure that civil supersonic flight entering or leaving the United States will not cause a sonic boom to reach the surface within the United States.

In 1990, the FAA proposed to amend the type certification noise standards and noise operating rules for future-generation civil supersonic airplanes. After analyzing the comments received on the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM), the FAA determined that further investigation and research was necessary before a final rule could be developed. Accordingly, the FAA

withdrew the proposed rule and instead issued a policy on noise issues involving the development of future generation civil supersonic transport airplanes.

With respect to future civil supersonic airplanes, specific noise standards have not yet been established. The FAA anticipates that any future proposed standards for civil supersonic airplanes would require that an airplane have no greater noise impact on a community than a civil subsonic airplane certified to Stage 3 noise levels.

U.S. Civil Programs

There have been two recent supersonic aircraft technology development programs sponsored by the U.S. government. They are the High Speed Civil Transport (HSCT) program sponsored by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), and the Quiet Supersonic Platform (QSP) program sponsored by the Defense Advanced Research Project Agency (DARPA). These programs included both military and civil aircraft.

In the late 1980's, NASA initiated a partnership with Boeing and McDonnell Douglas to develop the technology for a commercial supersonic transport. This activity was called the High Speed Civil Transport (HSCT) program. In 1999, the HSCT program was terminated. Boeing cited the high cost of developing a supersonic airplane, along with anticipated more stringent federal regulations regarding noise and emissions as the reason for terminating the program. NASA's research and technology (R&T) effort on HSCT was also terminated. In 2000, NASA requested that the National Research Council (NRC) conduct a study to identify breakthrough technologies for overcoming key barriers to the development of an environmentally acceptable and economically viable commercial supersonic aircraft. The study, "Commercial Supersonic Technology, The Way Ahead," concluded that no insurmountable obstacles exist to viable commercial supersonic aircraft. The study further concluded that while NASA should have its eye on supersonic commercial transport, it remains appropriate to conduct research on sonic boom even when related to smaller supersonic business jets.

The DARPA's QSP program, which began in 2000, was a congressionally mandated effort to develop technologies that could mitigate the impact of sonic boom to 0.3 pounds per square foot over-pressure propagated to the ground. This is significantly less than the 2.0 pounds per square feet created by the