

(5) Accomplishment of the installation required by paragraph (a)(5) of this AD per Airbus Service Bulletin A300-76-6009, Revision 01, dated March 5, 1999; or A310-76-2012, Revision 01, dated March 5, 1999; as applicable; is acceptable for compliance with paragraph (a)(5) of this AD.

(6) Accomplishment of all actions required by paragraph (a)(6) of this AD (including a detailed inspection for deterioration of the throttle control cable, and replacement of the throttle control cable, as applicable) per Airbus Service Bulletin A310-76-2004, Revision 02, dated March 14, 2000, is acceptable for compliance with paragraph (a)(6) of this AD.

Repetitive Inspections and Corrective Actions if Necessary

(c) For airplanes listed in Airbus Service Bulletin A300-76-6003, Revision 04, dated February 26, 2002; or A310-76-2006, Revision 03, dated February 26, 2002: Within 500 flight hours after the effective date of this AD, do the inspections and corrective actions, as applicable, required by paragraphs (c)(1) and (c)(2) of this AD, according to the Accomplishment Instructions of the applicable service bulletin. Repeat the inspections and corrective actions, as applicable, thereafter at intervals not to exceed 2,000 flight hours, until paragraph (d) of this AD is accomplished. Although Airbus Service Bulletins A300-76-6003, Revision 04, and A310-76-2006, Revision 03, specify to submit certain information to the manufacturer, this AD does not include such a requirement.

(1) Perform a detailed inspection to detect discrepancies of the throttle control cable (also called the "push-pull" cable) and the rack-box connection in each engine pylon, especially in the area of the cable guide having part number 221-1325-501. Discrepancies include excessive wear, damage, chafing of the cable in the area of a cable guide, backlash outside limits specified in the service bulletin, or excessive play. If any discrepancy is found, before further flight, replace the throttle control cable or the rack-box, as applicable, per the applicable service bulletin.

(2) Perform a detailed inspection for wear or play of the power lever of the hydromechanical control in the area where the rack-box drive tang is installed in the power lever. If any wear or play is found, before further flight, tighten the drive tang expansion screw to take up play, per the applicable service bulletin.

Accomplishment of Required Actions per Previous Service Bulletin Revisions

(d) Inspections and corrective actions accomplished before the effective date of this AD per Airbus Service Bulletin A300-76-6003, Revision 02, dated June 5, 2000; or Revision 03, dated November 9, 2000; or A310-76-2006, Revision 02, dated June 5, 2000; as applicable; are acceptable for compliance with paragraph (c) of this AD.

Optional Terminating Action

(e) Replacement of the existing throttle control cable assembly with a new improved assembly, per the Accomplishment Instructions of Airbus Service Bulletin A300-

76-6004, Revision 01, dated October 11, 2000; or A310-76-2007, Revision 02, dated November 24, 1988; as applicable; constitutes terminating action for the repetitive inspections required by paragraph (c) of this AD.

Alternative Methods of Compliance

(f) In accordance with 14 CFR 39.19, the Manager, International Branch, ANM-116, Transport Airplane Directorate, FAA, is authorized to approve alternative methods of compliance for this AD.

Note 3: The subject of this AD is addressed in French airworthiness directive 2001-072(B) R2, dated January 23, 2002.

Issued in Renton, Washington, on October 24, 2003.

Vi L. Lipski,

Manager, Transport Airplane Directorate, Aircraft Certification Service.

[FR Doc. 03-27323 Filed 10-29-03; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Aviation Administration

14 CFR Part 39

[Docket No. 2000-NM-168-AD]

RIN 2120-AA64

Airworthiness Directives; McDonnell Douglas Model DC-9-81 (MD-81), DC-9-82 (MD-82), DC-9-83 (MD-83), DC-9-87 (MD-87), and MD-88 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-9-81 (MD-81), DC-9-82 (MD-82), DC-9-83 (MD-83), DC-9-87 (MD-87), and MD-88 airplanes. This proposal would require installing shield assemblies for power feeder cables in the forward and aft lower cargo compartments, and installing an additional shield for the power feeder cable of the auxiliary power unit in the aft lower cargo compartment. This action is necessary to prevent a cable from chafing against an edge of a lightening hole, which could result in electrical arcing, and consequent smoke/fire in the lower cargo compartments. This action is intended to address the identified unsafe condition.

DATES: Comments must be received by December 15, 2003.

ADDRESSES: Submit comments in triplicate to the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), Transport

Airplane Directorate, ANM-114, Attention: Rules Docket No. 2000-NM-168-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-168-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 or 2000 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:

Elvin K. Wheeler, Aerospace Engineer, Systems and Equipment Branch, ANM-130L, FAA, Los Angeles Aircraft Certification Office, 3960 Paramount Boulevard, Lakewood, California 90712-4137; telephone (562) 627-5344; fax (562) 627-5210.

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 Number 2000-NM-168-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-168-AD, 1601 Lind Avenue, SW., Renton, Washington 98055-4056.

Discussion

As part of its practice of re-examining all aspects of the service experience of a particular aircraft whenever an accident occurs, the FAA has become aware of several incidents of migration of power feeder cable troughs on McDonnell Douglas Model DC-9-81 (MD-81), DC-9-82 (MD-82), DC-9-83 (MD-83), DC-9-87 (MD-87), and MD-88 airplanes. The migration occurred where cables pass through lightening holes into forward and aft lower cargo compartments. Investigation revealed that the cause of such migration is vibration. Migration of the trough could result in a cable chafing against an edge of a lightening hole, which could result in electrical arcing, and consequent smoke/fire in the lower cargo compartments.

Other Related Rulemaking

The FAA, in conjunction with Boeing and operators of McDonnell Douglas Model DC-9-81 (MD-81), DC-9-82 (MD-82), DC-9-83 (MD-83), DC-9-87 (MD-87), and MD-88 airplanes, has reviewed all aspects of the service history of those airplanes to identify potential unsafe conditions and to take appropriate corrective actions. This proposed airworthiness directive (AD) is one of a series of corrective actions identified during that process. We have previously issued several other ADs and may consider further rulemaking actions

to address the remaining identified unsafe conditions.

On April 14, 1994, the FAA issued AD 94-09-02, amendment 39-8890 (59 FR 18720, April 20, 1994). That AD requires inspecting the auxiliary power unit (APU) for power feeder cable damage, and repair of the cable if necessary; then modifying the cable installation. Those actions are required to eliminate a potential source of fire ignition from electrical shorting of the generator power feeder cable. That AD also requires inspecting previously modified airplanes to determine whether a spacer or "stand off" had been installed, and installing those items if necessary. Those actions are required to prevent the power feeder cable for the APU from chafing against adjacent structures, which could result in electrical shorting and arcing, and a fire below the cabin floor.

Explanation of Relevant Service Information

The FAA has reviewed and approved McDonnell Douglas Alert Service Bulletin MD80-24A100, Revision 04, dated January 24, 2000, which describes procedures for installing shield assemblies for power feeder cables in the forward and aft lower cargo compartments, and installing an additional shield for the power feeder cable of the auxiliary power unit in the aft lower cargo compartment.

Accomplishment of the actions specified in the service bulletin will protect the power feeder cables from contact with the edge of a lightening hole when trough migration occurs, and 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.

Cost Impact

There are approximately 473 airplanes of the affected design in the worldwide fleet. The FAA estimates that 275 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 installation, and that the average labor rate is \$65 per work hour. Required parts would cost approximately between \$674 and \$3,656 per airplane. Based on these figures, the cost impact of the proposed installation on U.S. operators

of these airplanes is estimated to be between \$203,225 and \$1,023,275, or between \$739 and \$3,721 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 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. The manufacturer may cover the cost of parts associated with this proposed AD, subject to warranty conditions. Manufacturer warranty remedies also may be available for labor costs associated with this proposed AD. As a result, the costs attributable to the proposed AD may be less than stated above.

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:

McDonnell Douglas: Docket 2000–NM–168–AD.

Applicability: Model DC–9–81 (MD–81), DC–9–82 (MD–82), DC–9–83 (MD–83), DC–9–87 (MD–87), and MD–88 airplanes, as listed in McDonnell Douglas Alert Service Bulletin MD80–24A100, Revision 04, dated January 24, 2000; certificated in any category.

Compliance: Required as indicated, unless accomplished previously.

To prevent a cable from chafing against an edge of a lightening hole, which could result in electrical arcing, and consequent smoke/fire in the lower cargo compartments, accomplish the following:

Installation

(a) Within 1 year after the effective date of this AD, install shield assemblies for power feeder cables in the forward and aft lower cargo compartments, and install an additional shield for the power feeder cable of the auxiliary power unit in the aft lower cargo compartment, per the Accomplishment Instructions of McDonnell Douglas Alert Service Bulletin MD80–24A100, Revision 04, dated January 24, 2000.

Installations Accomplished per Previous Issues of Service Bulletin

(b) Installations accomplished before the effective date of this AD per McDonnell Douglas Service Bulletin MD80–24–100, original issue, dated March 30, 1988, through Revision 3, dated March 15, 1991, are considered acceptable for compliance with the actions specified in paragraph (a) of this AD.

Alternative Methods of Compliance

(c) In accordance with 14 CFR 39.19, the Manager, Los Angeles Aircraft Certification Office, FAA, is authorized to approve alternative methods of compliance for this AD.

Issued in Renton, Washington, on October 24, 2003.

Vi L. Lipski,

Manager, Transport Airplane Directorate, Aircraft Certification Service.

[FR Doc. 03–27322 Filed 10–29–03; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Aviation Administration

14 CFR Part 39

[Docket No. 2002–NM–146–AD]

RIN 2120–AA64

Airworthiness Directives; Saab Model SAAB SF340A and SAAB 340B 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 Saab Model SAAB SF340A and SAAB 340B series airplanes. This proposal would require removing the two direct current (DC) over-voltage/feeder-fault test switches from the Test 2 Panel of the generator control unit, and follow-on actions. This action is necessary to prevent the loss of the DC generators, which could result in the loss of normal electrical power to the airplane and increased pilot workload. This action is intended to address the identified unsafe condition.

DATES: Comments must be received by December 1, 2003.

ADDRESSES: Submit comments in triplicate to the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), Transport Airplane Directorate, ANM–114, Attention: Rules Docket No. 2002–NM–146–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–146–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 or 2000 or ASCII text.

The service information referenced in the proposed rule may be obtained from Saab Aircraft AB, SAAB Aircraft Product Support, S–581.88, Linköping, Sweden. This information may be examined at the FAA, Transport Airplane Directorate, 1601 Lind Avenue, SW., Renton, Washington.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Rosanne Ryburn, Aerospace Engineer, International Branch, ANM–116, FAA,

Transport Airplane Directorate, 1601 Lind Avenue, SW., Renton, Washington 98055–4056; telephone (425) 227–2139; fax (425) 227–1149.

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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Discussion

The Luftfartsverket (LFV), which is the airworthiness authority for Sweden, notified the FAA that an unsafe condition may exist on certain Saab