

provides an acceptable level of safety may be used if approved by the Manager, Seattle ACO. Operators shall submit their requests through an appropriate FAA Principal Maintenance Inspector, who may add comments and then send it to the Manager, Seattle ACO.

**Note 4:** Information concerning the existence of approved alternative methods of compliance with this AD, if any, may be obtained from the Seattle ACO.

#### Special Flight Permits

(d) 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

(e) Except as provided by paragraph (b) of this AD, the actions shall be done per Boeing Alert Service Bulletin 757-53A0080, excluding Evaluation Form, dated February 3, 2000. This incorporation by reference was approved by the Director of the Federal Register in accordance with 5 U.S.C. 552(a) and 1 CFR part 51. Copies may be obtained from Boeing Commercial Airplane Group, P.O. Box 3707, Seattle, Washington 98124-2207. 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.

#### Effective Date

(f) This amendment becomes effective on January 7, 2003.

Issued in Renton, Washington, on November 20, 2002.

**Ali Bahrami,**

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

[FR Doc. 02-30342 Filed 12-2-02; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4910-13-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

### Federal Aviation Administration

#### 14 CFR Part 39

[Docket No. 2001-NM-17-AD; Amendment 39-12968; AD 2002-24-03]

**RIN 2120-AA64**

#### **Airworthiness Directives; Boeing Model 747 Series Airplanes Powered by General Electric (GE) CF6-80C2 Series Engines**

**AGENCY:** Federal Aviation Administration, DOT.

**ACTION:** Final rule.

**SUMMARY:** This amendment adopts a new airworthiness directive (AD), applicable to certain Boeing Model 747 series airplanes powered by GE CF6-

80C2 series engines, that requires repetitive inspections and torque checks to find discrepancies of the fasteners that attach the diagonal brace fittings of the lower spar to the inboard engine struts, and modification of the fasteners if discrepancies are found. This amendment also requires eventual modification of all the fasteners, which ends the repetitive inspections and checks. The actions specified by this AD are intended to find and fix discrepant fasteners of the diagonal brace fittings, which could result in reduced structural integrity of the diagonal brace-to-strut attachment, and possible separation of the strut and engine from the airplane. This action is intended to address the identified unsafe condition.

**DATES:** Effective January 7, 2003.

The incorporation by reference of certain publications listed in the regulations is approved by the Director of the Federal Register as of January 7, 2003.

**ADDRESSES:** The service information referenced in this AD may be obtained from Boeing Commercial Airplane Group, P.O. Box 3707, Seattle, Washington 98124-2207. 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:** Tamara Anderson, Aerospace Engineer, Airframe Branch, ANM-120S, FAA, Seattle Aircraft Certification Office, 1601 Lind Avenue, SW., Renton, Washington 98055-4056; telephone (425) 227-2771; fax (425) 227-1181.

**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 Boeing Model 747 series airplanes powered by General Electric CF6-80C2 series engines was published in the **Federal Register** on August 30, 2002 (67 FR 55739). That action proposed to require repetitive inspections and torque checks to find discrepancies of the fasteners that attach the diagonal brace fittings of the lower spar to the inboard engine struts, and modification of the fasteners if discrepancies are found. That action also proposed to require eventual modification of all the fasteners, which would end the repetitive inspections and checks.

#### Comments

Interested persons have been afforded an opportunity to participate in the

making of this amendment. No comments were submitted in response to the proposal or the FAA's determination of the cost to the public.

#### Conclusion

The FAA has determined that air safety and the public interest require the adoption of the rule as proposed.

#### Explanation of Editorial Change

We have changed the service bulletin citation throughout this final rule to exclude the Evaluation Form. (The form is intended to be completed by operators and submitted to the manufacturer to provide input on the quality of the service bulletin; however, this AD does not include such a requirement.)

#### Cost Impact

There are approximately 237 airplanes of the affected design in the worldwide fleet. We estimate that 14 airplanes of U.S. registry will be affected by this AD.

It will take approximately 5 work hours per airplane to accomplish the inspection and torque check at an average labor rate of \$60 per work hour. Based on these figures, the cost impact of the required actions on U.S. operators is estimated to be \$4,200, or \$300 per airplane, per inspection/check cycle.

It will take approximately 76 work hours per airplane to accomplish the terminating action at an average labor rate of \$60 per work hour. Required parts will cost approximately \$4,268 per airplane. Based on these figures, the cost impact of this required action on U.S. operators is estimated to be \$123,592, or \$8,828 per airplane.

The cost impact figures discussed above are 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. 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 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:

**2002-24-03 Boeing:** Amendment 39-12968. Docket 2001-NM-17-AD.

**Applicability:** Model 747-200B, -300, -400, -400D, and -400F series airplanes powered by General Electric CF6-80C2 series engines, as listed in Boeing Alert Service Bulletin 747-54A2207, dated November 16, 2000, 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 (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 find and fix discrepant fasteners of the diagonal brace fittings, which could result in reduced structural integrity of the diagonal brace-to-strut attachment, and possible separation of the strut and engine from the airplane, accomplish the following:

#### Repetitive Inspections and Torque Checks/Corrective Action

(a) Do a detailed inspection and torque check to find discrepancies of the fasteners (e.g., loose, fractured, or missing fastener heads) that attach the diagonal brace fittings of the lower spar to the inboard engine struts, at the applicable time specified in paragraph (a)(1) or (a)(2) of this AD, per Boeing Alert Service Bulletin 747-54A2207, dated November 16, 2000, excluding Evaluation Form. Repeat the inspection and check after that every 8,000 flight hours or 24 months, whichever is first.

**Note 2:** For the purposes of this AD, a detailed inspection is defined as: "An intensive visual examination of a specific structural area, system, installation, or assembly to detect damage, failure, or irregularity. Available lighting is normally supplemented with a direct source of good lighting at intensity deemed appropriate by the inspector. Inspection aids such as mirror, magnifying lenses, etc., may be used. Surface cleaning and elaborate access procedures may be required."

(1) For airplanes that have not been modified as required by AD 95-13-06, amendment 39-9286 (all Group 2 airplanes): Before the accumulation of 6,000 total flight cycles or within 24 months after the effective date of this AD, whichever is later.

(2) For airplanes that have been modified as required by AD 95-13-06 (all Group 1 airplanes): Before the accumulation of 6,000 total flight cycles after doing the modification or within 24 months after the effective date of this AD, whichever is later.

(b) If no discrepancy is found during any inspection/check required by paragraph (a) of this AD, repeat the inspection/check at the time specified in paragraph (a) of this AD until the terminating action specified in paragraph (c) of this AD is done. If any discrepancy is found, do the applicable actions specified in paragraph (b)(1) or (b)(2) of this AD.

(1) If any discrepancy is found in the area that connects the diagonal brace fitting to the aft bulkhead, before further flight, repair per a method approved by the Manager, Seattle Aircraft Certification Office (ACO), FAA; or per data meeting the type certification basis of the airplane approved by a Boeing Company Designated Engineering Representative (DER) who has been authorized by the Manager, Seattle ACO, to make such findings. For a repair method to be approved, as required by this paragraph, the approval must specifically reference this AD.

(2) If any discrepancy is found in any area other than that specified in paragraph (b)(1) of this AD, before further flight, do the terminating action specified in paragraph (c) of this AD.

#### Terminating Action

(c) Except as provided by paragraph (b)(2) of this AD, within 72 months after the effective date of this AD: Do the modification (including doing a high frequency eddy current (HFEC) inspection, oversizing the fastener holes, and installing new fasteners) as specified in and per Figure 3 of the Accomplishment Instructions of Boeing Alert Service Bulletin 747-54A2207, dated November 16, 2000, excluding Evaluation Form. If any cracking is found during the HFEC inspection and the service bulletin specifies contacting Boeing for repair procedures, before further flight, repair per a method approved by the Manager, Seattle ACO; or per data meeting the type certification basis of the airplane approved by a Boeing Company DER who has been authorized by the Manager, Seattle ACO, to make such findings. For a repair method to be approved, as required by this paragraph, the approval must specifically reference this AD. Accomplishment of the actions specified in this paragraph ends the repetitive inspections and checks.

#### 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, Seattle ACO. Operators shall submit their requests through an appropriate FAA Principal Maintenance Inspector, who may add comments and then send it to the Manager, Seattle ACO.

**Note 3:** Information concerning the existence of approved alternative methods of compliance with this AD, if any, may be obtained from the Seattle ACO.

#### Special Flight Permits

(e) 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

(f) Except as provided by paragraphs (b)(1) and (c) of this AD, the actions shall be done in accordance with Boeing Alert Service Bulletin 747-54A2207, dated November 16, 2000, excluding Evaluation Form. This incorporation by reference was approved by the Director of the Federal Register in accordance with 5 U.S.C. 552(a) and 1 CFR part 51. Copies may be obtained from Boeing Commercial Airplane Group, P.O. Box 3707, Seattle, Washington 98124-2207. 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.

#### Effective Date

(g) This amendment becomes effective on January 7, 2003.

Issued in Renton, Washington, on November 20, 2002.

Ali Bahrami,

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

[FR Doc. 02-30343 Filed 12-2-02; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-13-P

## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

### Federal Aviation Administration

#### 14 CFR Part 39

[Docket No. 2002-NE-37-AD; Amendment 39-12971; AD 2002-24-06]

RIN 2120-AA64

#### Airworthiness Directives; Rolls-Royce Deutschland Ltd. & Co KG, Model Tay 620-15 and 650-15 Turbofan Engines

**AGENCY:** Federal Aviation Administration, DOT.

**ACTION:** Final rule; request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** This amendment adopts a new airworthiness directive (AD) that is applicable to Rolls-Royce Deutschland Ltd. & Co KG (RRD), Model Tay 620-15 and 650-15 turbofan engines. This action requires initial and repetitive inspections of certain low pressure (LP) fuel tubes. This amendment is prompted by a dual-engine flameout. The actions specified in this AD are intended to prevent a dual-engine flameout due to fuel exhaustion, which could lead to forced landing and possible damage to the airplane.

**DATES:** Effective December 18, 2002. The incorporation by reference of certain publications listed in the rule is approved by the Director of the Federal Register as of December 18, 2002.

Comments for inclusion in the Rules Docket must be received on or before February 3, 2003.

**ADDRESSES:** Submit comments in triplicate to the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), New England Region, Office of the Regional Counsel, Attention: Rules Docket No. 2002-NE-37-AD, 12 New England Executive Park, Burlington, MA 01803-5299. Comments may be inspected at this location, by appointment, between 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays. Comments may also be sent via the Internet using the following address: "*9-ane-adcomment@faa.gov*". Comments sent via the Internet must contain the docket number in the subject line.

The service information referenced in this AD may be obtained from Rolls-Royce Deutschland Ltd. & Co KG,

Eschenweg 11, D-15827 DAHLEWITZ, Germany; telephone 49 (0) 33-7086-1768; fax 49 (0) 33-7086-3356. This information may be examined, by appointment, at the FAA, New England Region, Office of the Regional Counsel, 12 New England Executive Park, Burlington, MA; or at the Office of the Federal Register, 800 North Capitol Street, NW., suite 700, Washington, DC.

#### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

James Lawrence, Aerospace Engineer, Engine Certification Office, FAA, Engine and Propeller Directorate, 12 New England Executive Park, Burlington, MA 01803-5299; telephone 781-238-7176; fax 781-238-7199.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Luftfahrt-Bundesamt (LBA), which is the airworthiness authority for Germany, recently notified the FAA that an unsafe condition may exist on RRD Model Tay 620-15 and 650-15 turbofan engines. The LBA advises that there has been a dual-engine flameout on a Fokker 100 airplane that resulted in a forced landing and destruction of the airplane. The LBA has determined that a leak from the LP fuel tube, which connects the LP fuel flowmeter to the high pressure (HP) fuel pump, resulted in complete fuel exhaustion and subsequent dual engine flameout.

#### Manufacturer's Service Information

RRD has issued Service Bulletin (SB) TAY-73-1540, Revision 1, dated September 13, 2002, that specifies procedures for inspecting the LP fuel tube for fretting. The LBA classified this service bulletin as mandatory and issued AD No. 2002-331, dated September 13, 2002, in order to assure the airworthiness of these RRD Model Tay 620-15 and 650-15 turbofan engines in Germany.

#### Bilateral Airworthiness Agreement

This engine model is type certificated in Germany, and is 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. Pursuant to this bilateral airworthiness agreement, the LBA has kept the FAA informed of the situation described above. The FAA has examined the findings of the LBA, reviewed all available information, and determined that AD action is necessary for products of this type design that are certificated for operation in the United States.

#### FAA's Determination of an Unsafe Condition and Required Actions

Since an unsafe condition has been identified that is likely to exist or

develop on other RRD Model Tay 620-15 and 650-15 turbofan engines of the same type design, this AD is being issued to prevent a dual-engine flameout due to fuel exhaustion, which could lead to forced landing and possible damage to the airplane. This AD requires an initial inspection of the LP fuel tube for fretting within 300 hours or one month after the effective date of this AD, whichever occurs first, and thereafter, repetitive inspections for fretting within 2,000 hours time-in-service after the last inspection. The actions must be done in accordance with the service bulletin described previously. The inspections required by this AD are considered interim action, and further rulemaking actions may be taken.

#### Immediate Adoption of This AD

Since a situation exists that requires the immediate adoption of this regulation, it is found that notice and opportunity for prior public comment hereon are impracticable, and that good cause exists for making this amendment effective in less than 30 days.

#### Comments Invited

Although this action is in the form of a final rule that involves requirements affecting flight safety and, thus, was not preceded by notice and an opportunity for public comment, comments are invited on this rule. Interested persons are invited to comment on this rule by submitting such written data, views, or arguments as they may desire. Communications should identify the Rules Docket number and be submitted in triplicate to the address specified under the caption **ADDRESSES**. All communications received on or before the closing date for comments will be considered, and this rule may be amended in light of the comments received. Factual information that supports the commenter's ideas and suggestions is extremely helpful in evaluating the effectiveness of the AD action and determining whether additional rulemaking action would be needed.

Comments are specifically invited on the overall regulatory, economic, environmental, and energy aspects of the rule that might suggest a need to modify the 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 that summarizes each FAA-public contact concerned with the substance of this AD will be filed in the Rules Docket.

Commenters wishing the FAA to acknowledge receipt of their comments