

Actions	Compliance	Procedures
(3) If, by checking the airplane logbook, you determine that a steel fuselage center-section tie bar, P/N RD.C1.FS.107, is installed, or cannot positively show that one is not installed: (i) inspect the lug bolt holes to determine if bushings have been installed; (ii) if bushings have been installed, the safe life limit for that part is now 16,000 fatigue hours; (iii) if bushing have not been installed, the safe life limit for that part remains at 30,000 fatigue hours; and (iv) make an entry into the aircraft records that shows compliance with this portion of the AD in accordance with section 43.9 of the Federal Aviation Regulations (14 CFR 43.9).	Prior to further flight after the logbook check required in paragraph (d)(1) of this AD.	In accordance with British Aerospace Mandatory Technical News Sheet No. 175, Issue 1, dated August 1, 1985.
(4) The following are the safe life limit for steel fuselage center-section tie bars, P/N RD.C1.FS.107: (i) If fitted with bushings in the end lug bolt holes: 16,000 fatigue hours; and (ii) If not fitted with bushings in the end lug bolt holes: 30,000 fatigue hours.	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, Atlanta Aircraft Certification Office (ACO), approves your alternative. Submit your request through an FAA Principal Maintenance Inspector, who may add comments and then send it to the Manager, Atlanta ACO.

Note: This AD applies to each airplane 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 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 (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 Cindy Lorenzen, Aerospace Engineer, FAA, Atlanta Aircraft Certification Office, 1895 Phoenix Boulevard, Suite 450, Atlanta, Georgia; telephone: (770) 703-6078; facsimile: (770) 703-6097.

(g) *What if I need to fly the airplane 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 airplane 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 DeHavilland Support Limited, Duxford Airfield, Bldg. 213, Cambridgeshire, CB2 4QR, United Kingdom; telephone: +44 1223 830090, facsimile: +44 1223 830085, e-mail:

info@dhsupport.com. You may view these documents at FAA, Central Region, Office of the Regional Counsel, 901 Locust, Room 506, Kansas City, Missouri 64106.

Issued in Kansas City, Missouri, on November 6, 2002.

Michael Gallagher,
Manager, Small Airplane Directorate, Aircraft Certification Service.

[FR Doc. 02-28999 Filed 11-14-02; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-13-P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Aviation Administration

14 CFR Part 39

[Docket No. 2002-NE-27-AD]

RIN 2120-AA64

Airworthiness Directives; Pratt & Whitney JT8D-1, -1A, -1B, -7, -7A, -7B, -9, -9A, -11, -15, -15A, -17, -17A, -17R, and -17AR Turbofan Engines

AGENCY: Federal Aviation Administration, DOT.

ACTION: Notice of proposed rulemaking (NPRM).

SUMMARY: The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) proposes to adopt a new airworthiness directive (AD) that is applicable to Pratt & Whitney JT8D-1, -1A, -1B, -7, -7A, -7B, -9, -9A, -11, -15, -15A, -17, -17A, -17R, and -17AR turbofan engines. This proposal would require removal from service of certain part number (P/N) 3rd-4th and 4th-5th stage compressor rotor spacer assemblies and incorporation of a new tierod retention configuration. This

proposal is prompted by two reports of uncontained failure of JT8D turbofan engines, caused by turbine rotor overspeed resulting from first and second stage fan section separation from the low pressure compressor (LPC). The actions specified by the proposed AD are intended to prevent first and second stage fan section separation from the LPC, resulting in turbine rotor overspeed, uncontained engine failure, and damage to the airplane.

DATES: Comments must be received by January 14, 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-27-AD, 12 New England Executive Park, Burlington, MA 01803-5299. Comments may be inspected at this location, by appointment, between 8 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 the proposed rule may be obtained from Pratt & Whitney, 400 Main St., East Hartford, CT 06108; telephone (860) 565-8770; fax (860) 565-4503. 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.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Christopher Spinney, Aerospace

Engineer, Engine Certification Office, FAA, Engine and Propeller Directorate, 12 New England Executive Park, Burlington, MA 01803-5299; telephone (781) 238-7175, fax (781) 238-7199.

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 should 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.

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 2002-NE-27-AD." The postcard will be date stamped and returned to the commenter.

Availability of NPRM's

Any person may obtain a copy of this NPRM by submitting a request to the FAA, New England Region, Office of the Regional Counsel, Attention: Rules Docket No. 2002-NE-27-AD, 12 New England Executive Park, Burlington, MA 01803-5299.

Discussion

The FAA has received two reports of turbine rotor overspeed resulting in uncontained engine failure on JT8D turbofan engines. The overspeeds resulted from separation of the first and second stage fan section from the rear stages of the LPC. The separations resulted from LPC tierod fractures, which were caused by fretting due to spacer-to-disk snap diameter looseness. The manufacturer has determined that incorporating a tighter snap diameter fit by installing new design or modified parts and incorporating increased

sleeve-to-tierod clearances will reduce the number of tierod fractures due to fatigue initiated by fretting. Installation of the new tierod retention configuration will reduce the likelihood of a single tierod fracture damaging the remaining tierods. This condition, if not corrected, could result in a first and second stage fan section separation from the LPC, uncontained engine failure, and damage to the airplane.

Manufacturer's Service Information

The FAA has reviewed and approved the technical contents of Pratt & Whitney Service Bulletin (SB) No. JT8D 6429, dated August 23, 2002, that describes procedures for incorporating a new tierod retention configuration. Pratt & Whitney SB's No. 5409, No. SB 5716, and No. SB No. 5734 are referenced in this proposal because they provide information on modification of the parts requiring removal to make them serviceable.

FAA's Determination of an Unsafe Condition and Proposed Actions

Since an unsafe condition has been identified that is likely to exist or develop on other JT8D-1, -1A, -1B, -7, -7A, -7B, -9, -9A, -11, -15, -15A, -17, -17A, -17R, and -17AR turbofan engines of the same type design that are used on airplanes registered in the United States, the proposed AD would require at the next accessibility:

- Removing from service of 3rd-4th stage compressor rotor spacer assemblies part numbers (P/N's) 479927, 522194, 583385, 656814, 656815, 660649, 660655, 716851, 716853, 716854, 762140, 762145, 762271, 762468, 789554, and 789752 and replacement with a serviceable part.
- Removing from service of 4th-5th stage compressor rotor spacer assemblies P/N's 479929, 522196, 656816, 656817, 660650, 660656, 716855, 762138, and 762142 and replacement with a serviceable part.
- Removing from service 4th-5th stage compressor rotor spacer assemblies P/N 628778 that do not incorporate SB 5409 and replacement with a serviceable part.
- Incorporating a new tierod retention configuration in accordance with the service bulletin described previously.

Economic Analysis

There are approximately 4,180 engines of the affected design in the worldwide fleet. The FAA estimates that 1,800 engines installed on aircraft of U.S. registry would be affected by this proposed AD. The FAA also estimates that it would take approximately 41 work hours per engine to accomplish

the proposed actions, and that the average labor rate is \$60 per work hour. Required parts would cost approximately \$3,600 per engine. Based on these figures, the total cost of the proposed AD to U.S. operators is estimated to be \$10,908,000.

Regulatory Analysis

This proposed rule does not have federalism implications, as defined in Executive Order 13132, because it 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. Accordingly, the FAA has not consulted with state authorities prior to publication of this proposed rule.

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:

Pratt & Whitney: Docket No. 2002-NE-27-AD.

Applicability: This airworthiness directive (AD) is applicable to Pratt & Whitney JT8D-1, -1A, -1B, -7, -7A, -7B, -9, -9A, -11, -15, -15A, -17, -17A, -17R, and -17AR turbofan engines. These engines are installed on, but

not limited to Boeing 727 and 737 series, and McDonnell Douglas DC-9 series airplanes.

Note 1: This airworthiness directive (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: Compliance with this AD is required as indicated, unless already done.

To prevent first and second stage fan section separation from the low pressure compressor (LPC), resulting in turbine rotor overspeed, uncontained engine failure, and damage to the airplane, do the following:

(a) At the next accessibility, do the following:

(1) Remove from service 3rd–4th stage compressor rotor spacer assemblies part numbers (P/N's) 479927, 522194, 583385, 656814, 656815, 660649, 660655, 716851, 716853, 716854, 762140, 762145, 762271, 762468, 789554, and 789752 and replace with a serviceable part.

(2) Remove from service 4th–5th stage compressor rotor spacer assemblies P/N's 479929, 522196, 656816, 656817, 660650, 660656, 716855, 762138, and 762142 and replace with a serviceable part.

(3) Remove from service 4th–5th stage compressor rotor spacer assemblies P/N's 628778 that do not incorporate SB 5409, and replace with a serviceable part.

Note 2: Information on modifying parts listed in paragraphs (a)(1), (a)(2), and (a)(3) of this AD into serviceable parts is contained in Pratt & Whitney (PW) SB's No. 5409, No. SB 5716, and No. SB No. 5734.

(4) Incorporate new tierods, retaining rings, 2nd stage compressor air seal or spacer assembly, flat washers and tierod nuts in the LPC in accordance with the Accomplishment Instructions of PW SB JT8D 6429, dated August 23, 2002.

(b) After the effective date of this AD, do not install 3rd–4th or 4th–5th stage compressor rotor spacer assemblies listed in paragraphs (a)(1), (a)(2), and (a)(3) of this AD into any engine.

Definition

(c) For the purpose of this AD, accessibility means removal of the LPC from the engine and disassembly that provides piece-part exposure to the parts listed in paragraph (a) of this AD.

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 must submit their request through an appropriate

FAA Principal Maintenance Inspector, who may add comments and then send it to the Manager, ECO.

Note 3: 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 done.

Issued in Burlington, Massachusetts, on November 8, 2002.

Francis A. Favara,

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

[FR Doc. 02-29002 Filed 11-14-02; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-13-P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Aviation Administration

14 CFR Part 39

[Docket No. 2002-CE-43-AD]

RIN 2120-AA64

Airworthiness Directives; SOCATA—Groupe AEROSPATIALE Models TB 9, TB 10, TB 20, TB 21, and TB 200 Airplanes

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 all SOCATA—Groupe AEROSPATIALE (Socata) Models TB 9, TB 10, TB 20, TB 21, and TB 200 airplanes. This proposed AD would require you to inspect the aileron control gimbal joint for correct alignment and correct operation, and replace any misaligned or defective gimbal joint. This proposed AD is the result of mandatory continuing airworthiness information (MCAI) issued by the airworthiness authority for France. The actions specified by this proposed AD are intended to prevent failure of the aileron control gimbal joint. Such failure could lead to loss of control of the airplane.

DATES: The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) must receive any comments on this proposed rule on or before January 3, 2003.

ADDRESSES: Submit comments to FAA, Central Region, Office of the Regional Counsel, Attention: Rules Docket No. 2002-CE-43-AD, 901 Locust, Room

506, Kansas City, Missouri 64106. You may view any comments at this location between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays. You may also send comments electronically to the following address: 9-ACE-7-Docket@faa.gov. Comments sent 1 electronically must contain "Docket No. 2002-CE-43-AD" in the subject line. If you send comments electronically as attached electronic files, the files must be formatted in Microsoft Word 97 for Windows or ASCII text.

You may get service information that applies to this proposed AD from SOCATA Groupe AEROSPATIALE, Customer Support, Aerodrome Tarbes-Ossun-Lourdes, BP 930—F65009 Tarbes Cedex, France; telephone: 011 33 5 62 41 73 00; facsimile: 011 33 5 62 41 76 54; or the Product Support Manager, SOCATA—Groupe AEROSPATIALE, North Perry Airport, 7501 Pembroke Road, Pembroke Pines, Florida 33023; telephone: (954) 893-1400; facsimile: (954) 964-4141. You may also view this information at the Rules Docket at the address above.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Karl Schletzbaum, Aerospace Engineer, FAA, Small Airplane Directorate, 901 Locust, Room 301, Kansas City, Missouri 64106; telephone: (816) 329-4146; facsimile: (816) 329-4090.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Comments Invited

How Do I Comment on This Proposed AD?

The FAA invites comments on this proposed rule. You may submit whatever written data, views, or arguments you choose. You need to include the rule's docket number and submit your comments to the address specified under the caption **ADDRESSES**. We will consider all comments received on or before the closing date. We may amend this proposed rule in light of comments received. Factual information that supports your ideas and suggestions is extremely helpful in evaluating the effectiveness of this proposed AD action and determining whether we need to take additional rulemaking action.

Are There Any Specific Portions of This Proposed AD I Should Pay Attention To?

The FAA specifically invites comments on the overall regulatory, economic, environmental, and energy aspects of this proposed rule that might suggest a need to modify the rule. You may view all comments we receive before and after the closing date of the rule in the Rules Docket. We will file a