

**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION****Federal Aviation Administration****Advisory Circular (AC) 91-60A, The Continued Airworthiness of Older Airplanes**

**AGENCY:** Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), DOT.

**ACTION:** Notice of availability and request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** This notice announces the availability of and request for comments on proposed advisory circular (AC) 91-60A, which provides guidance on the development and use of a service-history-based Structural Supplemental Inspection Program (SSIP) to ensure the continued airworthiness throughout their operational life of all U.S.-registered multiengine airplanes operated under 14 CFR part 129 or part 135 and initially certificated with 9 or fewer passenger seats. This guidance material addresses the requirement of the "Aging Airplane Safety Rule" for the development and use of a service-history-based SSIP. This proposed AC outlines an acceptable method, but not the only method, of compliance with this rule. A previous notice of availability was published in the **Federal Register** in error on November 20, 2002, and should be disregarded.

**DATES:** Comments must be received on or before February 4, 2003.

**ADDRESSES:** Send all comments on the proposed AC to: Frederick Sobeck, AFS-304, Aging Airplane Program Manager, Flight Standards Service, Federal Aviation Administration, 800 Independence Avenue SW., Washington, DC 20591; telephone number: (202) 267-7355.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Frederick Sobeck, AFS-304, Aging Airplane Program Manager, Flight Standards Service, Federal Aviation Administration, 800 Independence Avenue SW., Washington, DC 20591; telephone number: (202) 267-7355.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:****Comments Invited**

A copy of the draft AC may be obtained by accessing the FAA's Web page at <http://www.faa.gov/avr/arm/nprm.cfm?nav=nprm> or <http://faa.gov/avr/afs/acs/ac-idx.htm>. Interested parties are invited to submit comments on the proposed AC. Commenters must identify AC 91-60A and submit comments to the address specified above. The FAA will consider all communications received on or before

the closing date for comments before issuing the final AC.

**Discussion**

This proposed AC provides guidance on how to develop a service-history-based maintenance or inspection program to design approval holders, owners, and operators of all U.S.-registered multiengine airplanes operated under 14 CFR part 129 or part 135 and initially certificated with 9 or fewer passenger seats. This proposed AC reflects current maintenance and inspection practices and includes acceptable methods of compliance with the "Aging Airplane Safety Rule." The proposed AC lists structural points that require more frequent maintenance as an airplane ages and discusses the development of a continuous airworthiness program, including participation by design approval holders and implementation by airplane owner/operators.

Issued in Washington, DC on November 21, 2002.

**Louis C. Cusimano,**

*Deputy Director, Flight Standards Service.*

[FR Doc. 02-30110 Filed 12-5-02; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4910-13-P**

**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION****Federal Aviation Administration****Advisory Circular (AC) 120-XX, Aging Airplane Inspections and Records Reviews**

**AGENCY:** Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), DOT.

**ACTION:** Notice of availability and request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** This notice announces the availability of and request for comments on proposed AC 120-XX, which provides guidance pertaining to aging airplane records reviews and inspections that are accomplished to satisfy the requirements of the final rule entitled Aging Aircraft Safety which was enacted in response to a statutory requirement, the Aging Aircraft Safety Act of 1991. A previous notice of availability was published in the **Federal Register** in error on November 20, 2002, and should be disregarded.

**DATES:** Comments must be received on or before February 4, 2003.

**ADDRESSES:** Send all comments on the proposed AC to: Frederick Sobeck, AFS-304, Aging Airplane Program Manager, Flight Standards Service, Federal Aviation Administration, 800 Independence Ave. SW., Washington,

DC 20591; telephone number: (202) 267-7355.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Frederick Sobeck, AFS-304, Aging Airplane Program Manager, Flight Standards Service, Federal Aviation Administration, 800 Independence Ave. SW., Washington, DC 20591; telephone number: (202) 267-7355.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:****Comments Invited**

A copy of the draft AC may be obtained by accessing the FAA's Web page at <http://www.faa.gov/avr/arm/nprm.cfm?nav=nprm> or at <http://faa.gov/avr/afs/acs/ac-idx.htm>. Interested parties are invited to submit comments on the proposed AC. Commenters must identify AC 120-XX, and submit comments to the address specified above. All communications received on or before the closing date for comments will be considered by the FAA before issuing the final AC.

**Discussion**

To address aging aircraft concerns, in October 1991, Congress enacted Title IV of Public Law 102-143, known as the Aging Aircraft Safety Act of 1991, which was subsequently codified as 49 U.S.C. 44717. The law instructed the Administrator to prescribe regulations that would ensure the continued airworthiness of aging aircraft. The law also instructed the Administrator to conduct inspections and review the maintenance and other records of each aircraft an air carrier uses to provide air transportation. These inspections and records reviews were intended to enable the Administrator to decide whether aging aircraft are in a safe condition and maintained properly for operation in air transportation. The law also required the Administrator to establish procedures to be followed for performing such inspections.

In addition to imposing obligations on the Administrator, the law stated that air carriers must demonstrate that the maintenance of their aircraft's age-sensitive parts and components has been adequate and timely, and operators must make their aircraft and aircraft records available for inspection.

Issued in Washington, DC on November 21, 2002.

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[FR Doc. 02-30109 Filed 12-5-02; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4910-13-P**