

Regulatory Findings

We determined that this proposed AD would not have federalism implications under Executive Order 13132. This proposed AD 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.

For the reasons discussed above, I certify 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),

(3) Will not affect intrastate aviation in Alaska, and

(4) 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.

List of Subjects in 14 CFR Part 39

Air transportation, Aircraft, Aviation safety, Incorporation by reference, Safety.

The Proposed Amendment

Accordingly, under the authority delegated to me by the Administrator, the FAA proposes to amend 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. The FAA amends § 39.13 by adding the following new airworthiness directive (AD):

General Electric Company: Docket No. FAA–2017–0792; Product Identifier 2017–NE–28–AD.

(a) Comments Due Date

We must receive comments by May 14, 2018.

(b) Affected ADs

None.

(c) Applicability

This AD applies to General Electric Company (GE) CF6–80A, CF6–80A1, CF6–80A2, CF6–80A3, CF6–80C2A1, CF6–80C2A2, CF6–80C2A3, CF6–80C2A5, CF6–80C2A5F, CF6–80C2A8, CF6–80C2B1, CF6–80C2B1F, CF6–80C2B2, CF6–80C2B2F, CF6–80C2B4, CF6–80C2B4F, CF6–80C2B5F, CF6–80C2B6, CF6–80C2B6F, CF6–80C2B6FA, CF6–80C2B7F, CF6–80C2D1F, CF6–80C2L1F, and CF6–80C2K1F turbofan

engines with high-pressure turbine (HPT) disks with serial numbers listed in Table 1 and 2 of Appendix A in GE CF6–80C2 Service Bulletin (SB) 72–1562 R03, dated January 10, 2018; and Table 1 of Appendix A in GE CF6–80A SB 72–0869 R01, dated October 19, 2017.

(d) Subject

Joint Aircraft System Component (JASC) Code 7250, Turbine/Turboprop Engine—Turbine Section.

(e) Unsafe Condition

This AD was prompted by an uncontained failure of an HPT stage 2 disk. We are issuing this AD to prevent failure of the HPT Stage 1 disk (CF6–80C2) and the HPT Stage 2 disk (CF6–80C2 and CF6–80A). The unsafe condition, if not addressed, could result in an uncontained HPT disk release, damage to the engine, and damage to the airplane.

(f) Compliance

Comply with this AD within the compliance times specified, unless already done.

(g) Required Actions

After the effective date of this AD, perform an ultrasonic inspection (UI) for cracks in stage 1 and stage 2 HPT disks on the CF6–80C2 engine model and in stage 2 HPT disks on the CF6–80A engine model at each piece-part level exposure in accordance with the Accomplishment Instructions, paragraph 3.A.(2), in GE CF6–80C2 SB 72–1562 R03, dated January 10, 2018, or the Accomplishment Instructions, paragraph 3.A.(2) in GE CF6–80A SB 72–0869 R01, dated October 19, 2017, as applicable to the engine model.

(h) Non-Required Actions

The reporting requirements specified in the Accomplishment Instructions, paragraphs 3.A.(2)(c) and 3.A.(2)(f), of GE CF6–80C2 SB 72–1562 R03, dated January 10, 2018, are not required by this AD.

(i) Definition

For the purpose of this AD, “piece-part exposure” of the stage 1 or stage 2 HPT disk is separation of that HPT disk from its mating rotor parts within the HPT rotor module (thermal shield and HPT stage 1 and stage 2 disk respectively).

(j) Alternative Methods of Compliance (AMOCs)

(1) The Manager, ECO Branch, FAA, has the authority to approve AMOCs for this AD, if requested using the procedures found in 14 CFR 39.19. In accordance with 14 CFR 39.19, send your request to your principal inspector or local Flight Standards District Office, as appropriate. If sending information directly to the manager of the certification office send it to the attention of the person identified in paragraph (j) of this AD. You may email your request to: ANE-AD-AMOC@faa.gov.

(2) Before using any approved AMOC, notify your appropriate principal inspector, or lacking a principal inspector, the manager of the local flight standards district office/certificate holding district office.

(k) Related Information

(1) For more information about this AD, contact Herman Mak, Aerospace Engineer, FAA, ECO Branch, Compliance and Airworthiness Division, 1200 District Avenue, Burlington, MA 01803; phone: 781–238–7147; fax: 781–238–7199; email: herman.mak@faa.gov.

(2) For service information identified in this AD, contact General Electric Company, GE Aviation, Room 285, 1 Neumann Way, Cincinnati, OH 45215; phone: 513–552–3272; email: aviation.fleetsupport@ge.com. You may view this referenced service information at the FAA, Engine and Propeller Standards Branch, 1200 District Avenue, Burlington, MA 01803. For information on the availability of this material at the FAA, call 781–238–7759.

Issued in Burlington, Massachusetts, on March 23, 2018.

Robert J. Ganley,

Manager, Engine and Propeller Standards Branch, Aircraft Certification Service.

[FR Doc. 2018–06390 Filed 3–29–18; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910–13–P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Aviation Administration

14 CFR Part 39

[Docket No. FAA–2017–0682; Product Identifier 2017–SW–028–AD]

RIN 2120–AA64

Airworthiness Directives; Robinson Helicopter Company Helicopters

AGENCY: Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), DOT.

ACTION: Notice of proposed rulemaking (NPRM).

SUMMARY: We propose to adopt a new airworthiness directive (AD) for Robinson Helicopter Company (Robinson) Model R66 helicopters. This proposed AD would require replacing the tail rotor drive shaft yoke assembly and inspecting for sealant. This proposed AD is prompted by reports of tail rotor driveshaft failures. The actions of this proposed AD are intended to correct an unsafe condition on these products.

DATES: We must receive comments on this proposed AD by May 29, 2018.

ADDRESSES: You may send comments by any of the following methods:

- **Federal eRulemaking Docket:** Go to <http://www.regulations.gov>. Follow the online instructions for sending your comments electronically.
- **Fax:** 202–493–2251.
- **Mail:** Send comments to the U.S. Department of Transportation, Docket Operations, M–30, West Building

Ground Floor, Room W12-140, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE, Washington, DC 20590-0001.

• **Hand Delivery:** Deliver to the "Mail" address between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays.

Examining the AD Docket

You may examine the AD docket on the internet at <http://www.regulations.gov> by searching for and locating Docket No. FAA-2017-0682; or in person at Docket Operations between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays. The AD docket contains this proposed AD, the economic evaluation, any comments received, and other information. The street address for Docket Operations (telephone 800-647-5527) is in the **ADDRESSES** section. Comments will be available in the AD docket shortly after receipt.

For service information identified in this proposed rule, contact Robinson Helicopter Company, 2901 Airport Drive, Torrance, CA 90505; telephone (310) 539-0508; fax (310) 539-5198; or at <http://www.robinsonheli.com/servelib.htm>. You may review the referenced service information at the FAA, Office of the Regional Counsel, Southwest Region, 10101 Hillwood Pkwy., Room 6N-321, Fort Worth, TX 76177.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Danny Nguyen, Aerospace Engineer, Los Angeles ACO Branch, Compliance & Airworthiness Division, FAA, 3960 Paramount Blvd., Lakewood, California 90712; telephone (562) 627-5247; email danny.nguyen@faa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Comments Invited

We invite you to participate in this rulemaking by submitting written comments, data, or views. We also invite comments relating to the economic, environmental, energy, or federalism impacts that might result from adopting the proposals in this document. The most helpful comments reference a specific portion of the proposal, explain the reason for any recommended change, and include supporting data. To ensure the docket does not contain duplicate comments, commenters should send only one copy of written comments, or if comments are filed electronically, commenters should submit only one time.

We will file in the docket all comments that we receive, as well as a report summarizing each substantive public contact with FAA personnel concerning this proposed rulemaking.

Before acting on this proposal, we will consider all comments we receive on or before the closing date for comments. We will consider comments filed after the comment period has closed if it is possible to do so without incurring expense or delay. We may change this proposal in light of the comments we receive.

Discussion

We propose to adopt a new AD for Robinson Model R66 helicopters, serial numbers 0003 through 0752, with a tail rotor drive shaft assembly part number (P/N) D224-3 or D224-4 installed. This proposed AD would require, within 100 hours time-in-service (TIS), replacing the forward yoke assembly of the tail rotor drive shaft unless already accomplished, visually inspecting for sealant, and applying sealant if needed to prevent seal rotation.

This proposed AD is prompted by two incidents of bearing failure that stem from a bearing assembly that included a bearing that was undersized for its housing. Consequently, the bearing was spinning at a speed that caused excessive heating of the bearing operation and led to the breakdown of the bearing's grease and ultimately seizure of the C647-16 bearing.

To correct this condition, Robinson initially specified installing a temperature recorder on the tail rotor driveshaft bearing assembly (bearing assembly) and inspecting the temperature recorder during preflight checks and during each 100-hour inspection. If the bearing was found running hot, then Robinson advised upgrading the bearing to a newer design.

Robinson later specified through R66 Service Bulletin SB-20, dated November 7, 2016, modifying the forward D224-3 and D224-4 tail rotor drive shaft assemblies by using a kit that has an improved, larger bearing that spins with less friction. The bulletin also specified inspecting whether 0.5 inch of sealant was on the junction of the black seal and bearing outer race and installing sealant if there was less than 0.5 inch of sealant. Robinson clarified R66 Service Bulletin SB-20 with R66 Service Bulletin SB-20A, dated June 6, 2017, that helicopters equipped with D224-4 tail rotor drive shaft assemblies and certain modified D224-3 assemblies do not require being upgraded with the kit.

The actions specified by this AD are intended prevent failure of the tail rotor driveshaft forward bearing and subsequent loss of helicopter control.

FAA's Determination

We are proposing this AD because we evaluated all known relevant information and determined that an unsafe condition exists and is likely to exist or develop on other products of these same type designs.

Related Service Information

We reviewed Robinson R66 Service Bulletin SB-14, dated June 25, 2015, which specifies installing a temperature recorder on the bearing assembly and inspecting the temperature during preflight checks and during each 100-hour inspection. If the temperature of the bearing is found running hot, then Robinson advises upgrading the bearing to a newer design (kit P/N KI-235). This service information also specifies adding a caution page to the Pilot Operating Handbook regarding the overheating bearing assemblies.

We also reviewed Robinson R66 Service Bulletin SB-20, dated November 7, 2016, and Robinson R66 Service Bulletin SB-20A, dated June 6, 2017, which specify upgrading the bearing assembly to the newer design with kit P/N KI-235 if not previously done. The service information also contains procedures for inspecting for sealant and applying sealant to the damper and hanger bearings if needed to prevent seal rotation.

Lastly, we reviewed Robinson KI-235 R66 TRDS Forward Yoke Assembly and Hanger Installation Kit Instructions, Revision A, dated June 23, 2015. This information provides instructions for installing the newly designed forward yoke assembly, P/N D224-5, on the tail rotor drive shaft.

Proposed AD Requirements

This proposed AD would require, within 100 hours TIS, replacing the tail rotor drive shaft forward yoke assembly, inspecting the damper and hanger bearings for sealant, and applying sealant if needed.

Differences Between This Proposed AD and the Service Information

The service information specifies replacing the forward yoke assembly and applying the sealant to the bearing seals within the next 100 flight hours or by January 31, 2017, whichever comes first. This proposed AD would not have a calendar time compliance requirement.

Costs of Compliance

We estimate that this proposed AD would affect 249 helicopters of U.S. Registry and that labor costs average \$85 per work-hour. Based on these estimates, we expect the following costs:

- Replacing the yoke assembly would require 6 work-hours and \$798 for parts, for a cost of \$1,308 per helicopter.

- Inspecting for and applying sealant would require 1 work-hour and \$30 for parts, for a cost of \$115 per helicopter.

Based on these costs, we expect a total cost of \$1,423 per helicopter and \$354,327 for the U.S. operator fleet.

Authority for This Rulemaking

Title 49 of the United States Code specifies the FAA's authority to issue rules on aviation safety. Subtitle I, section 106, describes the authority of the FAA Administrator. "Subtitle VII: Aviation Programs," describes in more detail the scope of the Agency's authority.

We are issuing this rulemaking under the authority described in "Subtitle VII, Part A, Subpart III, Section 44701: General requirements." Under that section, Congress charges the FAA with promoting safe flight of civil aircraft in air commerce by prescribing regulations for practices, methods, and procedures the Administrator finds necessary for safety in air commerce. This regulation is within the scope of that authority because it addresses an unsafe condition that is likely to exist or develop on products identified in this rulemaking action.

Regulatory Findings

We determined that this proposed AD would not have federalism implications under Executive Order 13132. This proposed AD 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.

For the reasons discussed, I certify 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);
3. Will not affect intrastate aviation in Alaska to the extent that it justifies making a regulatory distinction; and
4. 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.

We prepared an economic evaluation of the estimated costs to comply with this proposed AD and placed it in the AD docket.

List of Subjects in 14 CFR Part 39

Air transportation, Aircraft, Aviation safety, Incorporation by reference, Safety.

The Proposed Amendment

Accordingly, under the authority delegated to me by the Administrator, the FAA proposes to amend 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. The FAA amends § 39.13 by adding the following new airworthiness directive (AD):

Robinson Helicopter Company: Docket No. FAA-2017-0682; Directorate Identifier 2017-SW-028-AD.

(a) Applicability

This AD applies to Robinson Helicopter Company (Robinson) Model R66 helicopters, serial numbers 0003 through 0752, with a tail rotor drive shaft assembly part number (P/N) D224-3 or D224-4 tail rotor drive shaft assembly installed, certificated in any category.

(b) Unsafe Condition

This AD defines the unsafe condition as failure of a tail rotor driveshaft forward bearing. This condition could result in failure of the tail rotor driveshaft and subsequent loss of helicopter control.

(c) Comments Due Date

We must receive comments by May 29, 2018.

(d) Compliance

You are responsible for performing each action required by this AD within the specified compliance time unless it has already been accomplished prior to that time.

(e) Required Actions

Within 100 hours TIS:

- (1) Replace the tail rotor drive shaft forward yoke assembly with a yoke assembly part number D224-5, if not previously done.
- (2) Remove the forward inspection plug assembly from the tailcone and either remove the B322-2 cover from the top of the third tailcone bay or, if an antenna is installed, remove the antenna and pull the circuit breaker.
- (3) Visually inspect the forward and aft sides of the hanger bearing and damper bearing for sealant along the junction of the seal and bearing outer race. If the sealant is less than 0.5 inch in length, clean the area and apply a minimum 0.5 inch long bead of polysulfide fuel-resistant sealant at the junction of the seal and bearing outer race.

(f) Alternative Methods of Compliance (AMOC)

- (1) The Manager, Los Angeles ACO Branch, FAA, may approve AMOCs for this AD. Send your proposal to: Danny Nguyen, Aerospace Engineer, Los Angeles ACO Branch, Compliance & Airworthiness Division, FAA,

3960 Paramount Blvd., Lakewood, California 90712; telephone (562) 627-5247; email 9-ANM-LAACO-AMOC-REQUESTS@faa.gov.

(2) For operations conducted under a 14 CFR part 119 operating certificate or under 14 CFR part 91, subpart K, we suggest that you notify your principal inspector, or lacking a principal inspector, the manager of the local flight standards district office or certificate holding district office before operating any aircraft complying with this AD through an AMOC.

(g) Additional Information

For service information identified in this AD, contact Robinson Helicopter Company, 2901 Airport Drive, Torrance, CA 90505; telephone (310) 539-0508; fax (310) 539-5198; or at <http://www.robinsonheli.com/servelib.htm>. You may review a copy of information at the FAA, Office of the Regional Counsel, Southwest Region, 10101 Hillwood Pkwy., Room 6N-321, Fort Worth, TX 76177.

(h) Subject

Joint Aircraft Service Component (JASC) Code: 6510, Tail Rotor Drive Shaft.

Issued in Fort Worth, Texas, on March 23, 2018.

Lance T. Gant,

Director, Compliance & Airworthiness Division, Aircraft Certification Service.

[FR Doc. 2018-06449 Filed 3-29-18; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Aviation Administration

14 CFR Part 71

[Docket No. FAA-2017-0954; Airspace Docket No. 17-AEA-16]

Proposed Amendment of Class D and Class E Airspace; Beaver Falls, PA; and Zelienople, PA

AGENCY: Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), DOT.

ACTION: Notice of proposed rulemaking (NPRM).

SUMMARY: This action proposes to amend Class E airspace extending upward from 700 feet or more above the surface, at Beaver Falls, PA, as the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center Beaver Valley Heliport has closed, and controlled airspace is no longer required. The geographic coordinates of the Ellwood City VORTAC, noted in the Beaver County Airport, Beaver Falls, PA, description, also would be amended in the associated Class E airspace. Also, the term Airport Facility Directory would be replaced with Chart Supplement. Additionally, this action would amend Class E airspace extending upward from 700 feet or more above the surface at Zelienople