

Submission to Congress and the General Accounting Office

Pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 810(a)(1)(A), the FRTIB submitted a report containing this rule and other required information to the U.S. Senate, the U.S. House of Representatives, and the Comptroller General of the United States before publication of this rule in the **Federal Register**. This rule is not a major rule as defined at 5 U.S.C. 804(2).

List of Subjects in 5 CFR Part 1650

Alimony, Claims, Government employees, Pensions, Retirement.

Ravindra Deo,

Executive Director, Federal Retirement Thrift Investment Board.

For the reasons stated in the preamble, the FRTIB amends 5 CFR part 1650 as follows:

PART 1650—METHODS OF WITHDRAWING FUNDS FROM THE THRIFT SAVINGS PLAN

- 1. The authority citation for Part 1650 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 5 U.S.C. 8351, 8432d, 8433, 8434, 8435, 8474(b)(5) and 8474(c)(1).

§ 1650.11 [Amended]

- 2. Amend § 1650.11 by removing paragraph (d).
 ■ 3. Amend § 1650.31 by revising paragraph (c) to read as follows:

§ 1650.31 Age-based withdrawals.

* * * * *

(c) A participant is permitted four age-based withdrawals per calendar year for an account.

[FR Doc. 2024–05346 Filed 3–13–24; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Aviation Administration

14 CFR Part 39

[Docket No. FAA–2024–0458; Project Identifier MCAI–2024–00117–T; Amendment 39–22696; AD 2024–05–05]

RIN 2120–AA64

Airworthiness Directives; ATR–GIE Avions de Transport Régional Airplanes

AGENCY: Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), DOT.

ACTION: Final rule; request for comments.

SUMMARY: The FAA is adopting a new airworthiness directive (AD) for all

ATR–GIE Avions de Transport Régional Model ATR42 and ATR72 airplanes. This AD was prompted by a report of incorrect marking and assembly of the two-way valves for the left- and right-hand engine fire extinguishing systems. This AD requires accomplishing a functional check of an affected part; replacing an affected part if necessary; reporting the functional check results; and prohibiting the installation of affected parts; as specified in a European Union Aviation Safety Agency (EASA) AD, which is incorporated by reference. The FAA is issuing this AD to address the unsafe condition on these products.

DATES: This AD is effective March 29, 2024.

The Director of the Federal Register approved the incorporation by reference of a certain publication listed in this AD as of March 29, 2024.

The FAA must receive comments on this AD by April 29, 2024.

ADDRESSES: You may send comments, using the procedures found in 14 CFR 11.43 and 11.45, by any of the following methods:

- **Federal eRulemaking Portal:** Go to [regulations.gov](https://www.regulations.gov). Follow the instructions for submitting comments.
- **Fax:** 202–493–2251.
- **Mail:** U.S. Department of Transportation, Docket Operations, M–30, West Building Ground Floor, Room W12–140, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE, Washington, DC 20590.
- **Hand Delivery:** Deliver to Mail address above between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays.

AD Docket: You may examine the AD docket at [regulations.gov](https://www.regulations.gov) under Docket No. FAA–2024–0458; 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 final rule, the mandatory continuing airworthiness information (MCAI), any comments received, and other information. The street address for Docket Operations is listed above.

Material Incorporated by Reference:

- For material incorporated by reference in this AD, contact EASA, Konrad-Adenauer-Ufer 3, 50668 Cologne, Germany; telephone +49 221 8999 000; email ADs@easa.europa.eu; website easa.europa.eu. You may find this material on the EASA website at ad.easa.europa.eu.
- You may view this service information at the FAA, Airworthiness Products Section, Operational Safety Branch, 2200 South 216th St., Des Moines, WA. For information on the availability of this material at the FAA,

call 206–231–3195. It is also available at [regulations.gov](https://www.regulations.gov) under Docket No. FAA–2024–0458.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Shahram Daneshmandi, Aviation Safety Engineer, FAA, 1600 Stewart Avenue, Suite 410, Westbury, NY 11590; telephone: 206–231–3220; email: Shahram.Daneshmandi@faa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Comments Invited

The FAA invites you to send any written data, views, or arguments about this final rule. Send your comments to an address listed under **ADDRESSES**. Include “Docket No. FAA–2024–0458; Project Identifier MCAI–2024–00117–T” at the beginning of your comments. The most helpful comments reference a specific portion of the final rule, explain the reason for any recommended change, and include supporting data. The FAA will consider all comments received by the closing date and may amend this final rule because of those comments.

Except for Confidential Business Information (CBI) as described in the following paragraph, and other information as described in 14 CFR 11.35, the FAA will post all comments received, without change, to [regulations.gov](https://www.regulations.gov), including any personal information you provide. The agency will also post a report summarizing each substantive verbal contact received about this final rule.

Confidential Business Information

CBI is commercial or financial information that is both customarily and actually treated as private by its owner. Under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) (5 U.S.C. 552), CBI is exempt from public disclosure. If your comments responsive to this AD contain commercial or financial information that is customarily treated as private, that you actually treat as private, and that is relevant or responsive to this AD, it is important that you clearly designate the submitted comments as CBI. Please mark each page of your submission containing CBI as “PROPIN.” The FAA will treat such marked submissions as confidential under the FOIA, and they will not be placed in the public docket of this AD. Submissions containing CBI should be sent to Shahram Daneshmandi, Aviation Safety Engineer, FAA, 1600 Stewart Avenue, Suite 410, Westbury, NY 11590; telephone: 206–231–3220; email: Shahram.Daneshmandi@faa.gov. Any commentary that the FAA receives which is not specifically designated as CBI will be placed in the public docket for this rulemaking.

Background

EASA, which is the Technical Agent for the Member States of the European Union, has issued EASA Emergency AD 2024-0044-E, dated February 15, 2024 (EASA Emergency AD 2024-0044-E) (also referred to as the MCAI), to correct an unsafe condition for all Model ATR42-200, -300, -320, -400, and -500 airplanes; and Model ATR72-101, -102, 201, -202, -211, -212, and -212A airplanes. Model ATR72-400 airplanes are not certificated by the FAA and are not included on the U.S. type certificate data sheet; this AD therefore does not include those airplanes in the applicability. The MCAI states that, during scheduled maintenance, an operator identified an issue on the left- and right-hand engine fire extinguishing systems. Further investigation revealed incorrect marking and assembly of the two-way valves, which caused the fire extinguishing system to not operate as intended. This condition, if not detected and corrected, could lead to reduced performance of the engine fire extinguishing system, which could result in loss of control of the airplane.

The FAA is issuing this AD to address the unsafe condition on these products.

You may examine the MCAI in the AD docket at [regulations.gov](https://www.regulations.gov) under Docket No. FAA-2024-0458.

Related Service Information Under 1 CFR Part 51

EASA Emergency AD 2024-0044-E specifies the following procedures:

- Accomplishing a functional check of an affected part.
- Replacing an affected part with a serviceable part, if any discrepancy is detected during the functional check. (A discrepancy is any amount of air that flows through either connector of the right engine extinguishing system when compressed air is passed through either connector of the left engine extinguishing system, and vice versa).
- Reporting inspection (*i.e.*, functional check) results to the airplane manufacturer.
- Prohibiting the installation of affected parts.

This material is reasonably available because the interested parties have access to it through their normal course of business or by the means identified in the ADDRESSES section.

FAA's Determination

This product has been approved by the aviation authority of another country and is approved for operation in the United States. Pursuant to the FAA's bilateral agreement with this State of Design Authority, it has notified the FAA of the unsafe condition described in the MCAI referenced above. The FAA is issuing this AD after determining that the unsafe condition described previously is likely to exist or develop on other products of the same type design.

Requirements of This AD

This AD requires accomplishing the actions specified in EASA Emergency AD 2024-0044-E described previously, except for any differences identified as exceptions in the regulatory text of this AD.

Explanation of Required Compliance Information

In the FAA's ongoing efforts to improve the efficiency of the AD process, the FAA developed a process to use some civil aviation authority (CAA) ADs as the primary source of information for compliance with requirements for corresponding FAA ADs. The FAA has been coordinating this process with manufacturers and CAAs. As a result, EASA Emergency AD 2024-0044-E is incorporated by reference in this AD. This AD requires compliance with EASA AD 2024-0044-E in its entirety through that incorporation, except for any differences identified as exceptions in the regulatory text of this AD. Using common terms that are the same as the heading of a particular section in EASA Emergency AD 2024-0044-E does not mean that operators need comply only with that section. For example, where the AD requirement refers to "all required actions and compliance times," compliance with this AD requirement is not limited to the section titled "Required Action(s) and Compliance Time(s)" in EASA Emergency AD 2024-0044-E. Service information required by EASA Emergency AD 2024-0044-E for compliance will be available at [regulations.gov](https://www.regulations.gov) under Docket No. FAA-2024-0458 after this AD is published.

Interim Action

The FAA considers this AD an interim action. If final action is later

identified, the FAA might consider further rulemaking then.

Justification for Immediate Adoption and Determination of the Effective Date

Section 553(b)(3)(B) of the Administrative Procedure Act (APA) (5 U.S.C. 551 *et seq.*) authorizes agencies to dispense with notice and comment procedures for rules when the agency, for "good cause," finds that those procedures are "impracticable, unnecessary, or contrary to the public interest." Under this section, an agency, upon finding good cause, may issue a final rule without providing notice and seeking comment prior to issuance. Further, section 553(d) of the APA authorizes agencies to make rules effective in less than thirty days, upon a finding of good cause.

An unsafe condition exists that requires the immediate adoption of this AD without providing an opportunity for public comments prior to adoption. The FAA has found that the risk to the flying public justifies forgoing notice and comment prior to adoption of this rule because inoperative two-way valves in the engine fire extinguishing system could lead to reduced performance of the system, which in combination with an engine fire, could result in an uncontrolled engine fire and subsequent loss of control of the airplane. Accordingly, notice and opportunity for prior public comment are impracticable and contrary to the public interest pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 553(b)(3)(B).

In addition, the FAA finds that good cause exists pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 553(d) for making this amendment effective in less than 30 days, for the same reasons the FAA found good cause to forgo notice and comment.

Regulatory Flexibility Act (RFA)

The requirements of the RFA do not apply when an agency finds good cause pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 553 to adopt a rule without prior notice and comment. Because the FAA has determined that it has good cause to adopt this rule without notice and comment, RFA analysis is not required.

Costs of Compliance

The FAA estimates that this AD affects 80 airplanes of U.S. registry. The FAA estimates the following costs to comply with this AD:

ESTIMATED COSTS FOR REQUIRED ACTIONS

Labor cost	Parts cost	Cost per product	Cost on U.S. operators
5 work-hours × \$85 per hour = \$425	\$0	\$425	\$34,000

The FAA estimates the following costs to do any necessary on-condition actions that would be required based on

the results of any required actions. The FAA has no way of determining the

number of aircraft that might need this on-condition actions:

ESTIMATED COSTS OF ON-CONDITION ACTIONS

Labor cost	Parts cost	Cost per product
8 work-hours × \$85 per hour = \$680	\$0	\$680

According to the manufacturer, some or all of the costs of this AD may be covered under warranty, thereby reducing the cost impact on affected individuals. The FAA does not control warranty coverage for affected individuals. As a result, the FAA has included all known costs in the cost estimate.

Paperwork Reduction Act

A federal agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, nor shall a person be subject to a penalty for failure to comply with a collection of information subject to the requirements of the Paperwork Reduction Act unless that collection of information displays a currently valid OMB Control Number. The OMB Control Number for this information collection is 2120–0056. Public reporting for this collection of information is estimated to take approximately 1 hour per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. All responses to this collection of information are mandatory. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to: Information Collection Clearance Officer, Federal Aviation Administration, 10101 Hillwood Parkway, Fort Worth, TX 76177–1524.

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.

The FAA is 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

This AD will not have federalism implications under Executive Order 13132. This AD 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.

For the reasons discussed above, I certify that this AD:

- (1) Is not a “significant regulatory action” under Executive Order 12866, and
- (2) Will not affect intrastate aviation in Alaska.

List of Subjects in 14 CFR Part 39

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

The Amendment

Accordingly, under the authority delegated to me by the Administrator, the FAA amends 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:

2024–05–05 ATR–GIE Avions de Transport Régional: Amendment 39–22696; Docket No. FAA–2024–0458; Project Identifier MCAI–2024–00117–T.

(a) Effective Date

This airworthiness directive (AD) is effective March 29, 2024.

(b) Affected ADs

None.

(c) Applicability

This AD applies to all ATR–GIE Avions de Transport Régional airplanes specified in paragraphs (c)(1) and (2) of this AD, certificated in any category.

(1) Model ATR42–200, –300, –320, and –500 airplanes.

(2) Model ATR72–101, –102, –201, –202, –211, –212, and –212A airplanes.

(d) Subject

Air Transport Association (ATA) of America Code 26, Fire Protection.

(e) Unsafe Condition

This AD was prompted by a report of incorrect marking and assembly of the two-way valves for the left- and right-hand engine fire extinguishing systems. The FAA is issuing this AD to address inoperative two-way valves in both engine fire extinguishing systems. This condition, if not addressed, could lead to reduced performance of the engine fire extinguishing system, which could result in loss of control of the airplane.

(f) Compliance

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

(g) Requirements

Except as specified in paragraph (h) of this AD: Comply with all required actions and compliance times specified in, and in accordance with, European Union Aviation Safety Agency (EASA) Emergency AD 2024–0044–E, dated February 15, 2024 (EASA AD 2024–0044–E).

(h) Exceptions to EASA AD 2024–0044–E

(1) Where EASA AD 2024–0044–E refers to its effective date, this AD requires using the effective date of this AD.

(2) Paragraph (4) of EASA AD 2024–0044–E specifies to report inspection results to ATR–GIE Avions de Transport Régional within a certain compliance time. For this AD, report inspection (*i.e.*, functional check) results at the applicable time specified in paragraph (h)(2)(i) or (ii) of this AD.

(i) If the inspection was done on or after the effective date of this AD: Submit the report within 30 days after the inspection.

(ii) If the inspection was done before the effective date of this AD: Submit the report within 30 days after the effective date of this AD.

(3) This AD does not adopt the “Remarks” section of EASA AD 2024–0044–E.

(i) Additional AD Provisions

The following provisions also apply to this AD:

(1) *Alternative Methods of Compliance (AMOCs)*: The Manager, International Validation 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 responsible Flight Standards Office, as appropriate. If sending information directly to the manager of the International Validation Branch, mail it to the address identified in paragraph (j) of this AD. Information may be emailed to: 9-AVS-AIR-730-AMOC@faa.gov. Before using any approved AMOC, notify your appropriate principal inspector, or lacking a principal inspector, the manager of the responsible Flight Standards Office.

(2) *Contacting the Manufacturer*: For any requirement in this AD to obtain instructions from a manufacturer, the instructions must be accomplished using a method approved by the Manager, International Validation Branch, FAA; or EASA; or ATR-GIE Avions de Transport Régional's EASA Design Organization Approval (DOA). If approved by the DOA, the approval must include the DOA-authorized signature.

(j) Additional Information

For more information about this AD, contact Shahram Daneshmandi, Aviation Safety Engineer, FAA, 1600 Stewart Avenue, Suite 410, Westbury, NY 11590; telephone: 206-231-3220; email: Shahram.Daneshmandi@faa.gov.

(k) Material Incorporated by Reference

(1) The Director of the Federal Register approved the incorporation by reference (IBR) of the service information listed in this paragraph under 5 U.S.C. 552(a) and 1 CFR part 51.

(2) You must use this service information as applicable to do the actions required by this AD, unless this AD specifies otherwise.

(i) European Union Aviation Safety Agency (EASA) Emergency AD 2024-0044-E, dated February 15, 2024.

(ii) [Reserved]

(3) For EASA AD 2024-0044-E, contact EASA, Konrad-Adenauer-Ufer 3, 50668 Cologne, Germany; telephone +49 221 8999 000; email ADs@easa.europa.eu; website easa.europa.eu. You may find this EASA ADs on the EASA website at ad.easa.europa.eu.

(4) You may view this material at the FAA, Airworthiness Products Section, Operational Safety Branch, 2200 South 216th St., Des Moines, WA. For information on the availability of this material at the FAA, call 206-231-3195.

(5) You may view this material at the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA). For information on the availability of this material at NARA, visit www.archives.gov/federal-register/cfr/ibr-locations or email fr.inspection@nara.gov.

Issued on March 6, 2024.

Victor Wicklund,

Deputy Director, Compliance & Airworthiness Division, Aircraft Certification Service.

[FR Doc. 2024-05499 Filed 3-12-24; 11:15 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-13-P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**Federal Aviation Administration****14 CFR Parts 415, 417, 431, 435****Policy on Requiring Disclosure of Payload Contents**

AGENCY: Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), Department of Transportation (DOT).

ACTION: Notification of policy.

SUMMARY: The FAA announces a clarification of the FAA's Office of Commercial Space Transportation (AST) policy regarding the review of payloads to be launched or reentered under an FAA license. Given the increasing complexity of payloads on the growing volume of FAA-licensed launches or reentries, the FAA is updating its payload review policy to require applicants for a payload review to disclose the contents and composition of all payloads, including those of all hosted payloads.

DATES: Effective March 14, 2024.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Daniel Murray, (202) 267-9237.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**I. Background**

The Commercial Space Launch Act of 1984, as codified and amended at 51 U.S.C.—Commercial Space Transportation, ch. 509, Commercial Space Launch Activities, 51 U.S.C. 50901–50923 (the Act), authorizes the DOT and the FAA, through delegations, to oversee, license, and regulate commercial launch and reentry activities, and the operation of launch and reentry sites as carried out by United States (U.S.) citizens or within the U.S. Consistent with the authority conferred under 51 U.S.C. Chapter 509, the FAA reviews all payloads to be launched or reentered under an FAA license to determine the effect of the payload's launch or reentry on public health and safety, safety of property, U.S. national security or foreign policy interests, or international obligations of the U.S. Applicants seeking a vehicle operator license under 14 CFR part 450 must receive a favorable payload determination under § 450.43 if they propose to carry a payload on their vehicle. Operators seeking to launch or

reenter a payload under a legacy license¹ (14 CFR parts 415, 417, 431, or 435) must receive a favorable payload determination under subpart D of part 415 or 431.

Consistent with the authority conferred under 51 U.S.C. Chapter 509 to the DOT and to the FAA by delegation, the FAA reviews all payloads to be launched or reentered under an FAA license to ensure that the launch or reentry of the proposed payload will not jeopardize public health and safety, safety of property, U.S. national security or foreign policy interests, or international obligations of the United States.

In this context, hosted payloads are space-bound items included on a launch vehicle, reentry vehicle, or payload that use available power, mass, or space of the primary payload or launch/reentry vehicle, and that may be owned by a party other than the primary payload owner or launch/reentry vehicle operator.

Subpart D of parts 415 and 431 detail the information that an applicant must provide to enable the FAA to render a payload determination in accordance with §§ 415.59 and 431.57, respectively. These information requirements include details such as the payload's physical dimensions and weight, ownership or operation, orbital parameters, intended operations, and the identification and quantification of any hazardous or radioactive materials. Each of these requirements helps the FAA, and its Federal partners who review the payload during interagency consultation, to assess the effect of launching or reentering the proposed payload in accordance with § 50904(c).

Inherent to this assessment is a complete understanding of what exactly the applicant intends to launch or reenter. Given the growing cadence of FAA-licensed launches and reentries carrying a growing volume of increasingly complex payloads, the FAA is clarifying its payload review policy to ensure the completeness of its assessment under § 50904(c).

II. The Policy

The FAA is updating its payload review policy to clarify that applicants for a payload determination must disclose the contents and composition of all payloads. Specifically, the FAA will require that applicants for a payload determination under parts 415, 431, 435, or 450 provide a complete

¹ The FAA refers to licenses issued under these parts as "legacy licenses," as they will be removed from the CFR on March 10, 2026. After that time, all operators must demonstrate compliance with part 450. See 85 FR 79566.