(2) Service material identified in this AD that is not incorporated by reference is available at the addresses specified in paragraph (n)(5) of this AD.

(n) Material Incorporated by Reference

- (1) The Director of the Federal Register approved the incorporation by reference (IBR) of the material listed in this paragraph under 5 U.S.C. 552(a) and 1 CFR part 51.
- (2) You must use this material as applicable to do the actions required by this AD, unless the AD specifies otherwise.
- (3) The following material was approved for IBR on [DATE 35 DAYS AFTER PUBLICATION OF THE FINAL RULE].
- (i) CFM International, S.A. (CFM) Service Bulletin (SB) LEAP-1B-72-00-0402-01A-930A-D, Issue 001, dated January 23, 2024.
 - (ii) [Reserved]
- (4) The following material was approved for IBR on January 16, 2024 (88 FR 85836, December 11, 2023).
- (i) CFM SB LEAP–1B–72–00–0392–01A–930A–D, Issue 002, dated September 5, 2023.
- (ii) [Reserved]
- (5) For CFM material identified in this AD, contact CFM International, S.A., GE Aviation Fleet Support, 1 Neumann Way, M/D Room 285, Cincinnati, OH 45215; phone: (877) 432–3272; email: aviation.fleetsupport@ge.com.
- (6) You may view this material at the FAA, Airworthiness Products Section, Operational Safety Branch, 1200 District Avenue, Burlington, MA 01803. For information on the availability of this material at the FAA, call (817) 222–5110.
- (7) 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 July 9, 2025.

Peter A. White,

Deputy Director, Integrated Certificate Management Division, Aircraft Certification Service.

[FR Doc. 2025–13660 Filed 7–18–25; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-13-P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Aviation Administration

14 CFR Part 39

[Docket No. FAA-2025-0022; Project Identifier MCAI-2023-00910-T; Amendment 39-23083; AD 2025-14-05]

RIN 2120-AA64

Airworthiness Directives; Embraer S.A. (Type Certificate Previously Held by Yaborã Indústria Aeronáutica S.A.; Embraer S.A.) Airplanes

AGENCY: Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), DOT.

ACTION: Final rule.

SUMMARY: The FAA is superseding Airworthiness Directive (AD) 2020–12– 12, which applied to all Embraer S.A. Model ERJ 170 airplanes and Model ERJ 190-100 STD, -100 LR, -100 ECJ, -100 IGW, -200 STD, -200 LR, and -200 IGW airplanes. AD 2020-12-12 required repetitive detailed inspections for cracking of the engine inboard and outboard engine pylon lower link lugs, and repair if necessary. This AD continues to require the actions in AD 2020-12-12 with certain reduced compliance times. The FAA is issuing this AD to address the unsafe condition on these products.

DATES: This AD is effective August 25, 2025.

The Director of the Federal Register approved the incorporation by reference of a certain publication listed in this AD as of August 25, 2025.

ADDRESSES:

AD Docket: You may examine the AD docket at regulations.gov under Docket No. FAA–2025–0022; 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 address for Docket Operations is U.S. Department of Transportation, Docket Operations, M–30, West Building Ground Floor, Room W12–140, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE, Washington, DC 20590.

Material Incorporated by Reference:

- For Agência Nacional de Aviação Civil (ANAC) material identified in this AD, contact ANAC, Aeronautical Products Certification Branch (GGCP), Rua Dr. Orlando Feirabend Filho, 230—Centro Empresarial Aquarius—Torre B—Andares 14 a 18, Parque Residencial Aquarius, CEP 12.246–190—São José dos Campos—SP, Brazil; telephone 55 (12) 3203–6600; email pac@anac.gov.br. You may find this material on the ANAC website at sistemas.anac.gov.br/certificacao/DA/DAE.asp.
- 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. It is also available at *regulations.gov* under Docket No. FAA–2025–0022.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Krista Greer, Aviation Safety Engineer, FAA, 2200 South 216th Street, Des Moines, WA 98198; phone: 206–231–3221; email: krista.greer@faa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

The FAA issued a notice of proposed rulemaking (NPRM) to amend 14 CFR part 39 to supersede AD 2020-12-12, Amendment 39-19921 (85 FR 41175, July 9, 2020) (AD 2020-12-12). AD 2020-12-12 applied to all Embraer S.A. Model ERJ 170-100 LR, -100 STD, -100 SE, -100 SU, -200 LR, -200 SU, -200 STD, and -200 LL airplanes; and Model ERJ 190-100 STD, -100 LR, -100 ECJ, -100 IGW, -200 STD, -200 LR, and -200 IGW airplanes. AD 2020-12-12 required repetitive detailed inspections for cracking of the engine inboard and outboard engine pylon lower link lugs, and repair if necessary. The FAA issued AD 2020-12-12 to address cracking of the engine pylon lower link lugs.

The NPRM was published in the **Federal Register** on February 7, 2025 (90 FR 9129). The NPRM was prompted by AD 2020–01–02R3, effective October 17, 2024; corrected October 15, 2024 (ANAC AD 2020–01–02R3) (also referred to as the MCAI), issued by ANAC, which is the aviation authority for Brazil. The MCAI states that optional terminating actions to the repetitive inspections have been included. ANAC AD 2020–01–02R2, effective July 26, 2023, stated the compliance intervals were reduced.

In the NPRM, the FAA proposed to continue to require the actions in AD 2020–12–12, with revised compliance times, as specified in ANAC AD 2020–01–02R3. The FAA is issuing this AD to address cracks on the left-hand (LH) and right-hand (RH) sides of engine pylon inboard lower link lugs. The unsafe condition, if not addressed, could cause the loss of engine pylon integrity, which could result in engine separation from the wing, loss of airplane controllability, and possible injury to persons on ground.

You may examine the MCAI in the AD docket at *regulations.gov* under Docket No. FAA–2025–0022.

Discussion of Final Airworthiness Directive

Comments

The FAA received comments from Air Line Pilots Association, International (ALPA), and an individual commenter who supported the NPRM without change.

The FAA received additional comments from two commenters, including Envoy Air and Horizon Air. The following presents the comments received on the NPRM and the FAA's response to each comment.

Request To Clarify Terminating Action

Envoy Air requested clarification about whether the terminating action in paragraph (d) of ANAC AD 2020–01–02R3 applies to the initial inspection specified in paragraph (b) or just the repetitive inspections specified in paragraph (c), as stated in ANAC AD 2020–01–02R3. The commenter pointed out that the FAA approved an alternative method of compliance (AMOC) (510–24–00070, dated May 14, 2024) with the inspections in paragraph (g) of AD 2020–12–12, but the AMOC does not differentiate between initial or repetitive inspections.

The FAA agrees to clarify. This AD provides terminating action only for the repetitive inspections, as does ANAC AD 2020–01–02R3. ANAC AD 2020–01–02R3 contains an implementation plan for airplanes near or past the threshold of the initial inspection that might differ from the maintenance review board (MRB) tasks. Once the initial inspection is accomplished, the MRB task can be used for compliance to the repetitive inspection requirement. No change is necessary to this AD in this regard.

Request To Clarify Versions of ANAC AD

Horizon Air requested that the FAA revise paragraphs (g) through (k) of the proposed AD to include the corrected date of ANAC AD 2020–01–02R3. Horizon Air noted that paragraphs (c) and (m) of the proposed AD include both the effective and corrected dates and asserted that repeating this

information in the remaining paragraphs would improve clarity.

The FAA agrees with the intent to reference the corrected version of ANAC AD 2020-01-02R3 in this AD, as it is the only effective version available on the foreign civil aviation authority's (FCAA) website. However, the FAA does not agree with revising all instances of "ANAC AD 2020-01-02R3" to include its effective and correction dates. Paragraph (c) of this AD establishes the legal definition, including effective and correction dates, to be ANAC AD 2020-01-02R3, effective October 17, 2024; corrected October 15, 2024. Therefore, all subsequent references to ANAC AD 2020-01-02R3 throughout the regulatory text of this AD are understood to refer to the version identified in paragraph (c) of this AD. No change has been made in this regard.

Additional Changes Made to This AD

The FAA has revised paragraph (h)(2) of this AD to match the wording used in ANAC AD 2020–01–02R3 when referring to revision 1 of ANAC AD 2020–01–02. The FAA intended to match ANACs wording and has revised this AD for clarity.

Conclusion

These products have been approved by the civil aviation authority of another country and are approved for operation in the United States. Pursuant to the FAA's bilateral agreement with this State of Design Authority, that authority has notified the FAA of the unsafe condition described in the MCAI referenced above. The FAA reviewed the relevant data, considered any comments received, and determined that air safety requires adopting this AD as proposed. Accordingly, the FAA is issuing this AD to address the unsafe condition on this product. Except for minor editorial changes, and any other changes described previously, this AD is adopted as proposed in the NPRM. None of the changes will increase the economic burden on any operator.

Material Incorporated by Reference Under 1 CFR Part 51

The FAA reviewed ANAC AD 2020-01-02R3, which specifies procedures for repetitive detailed inspections, special detailed inspections, and repair, as applicable, of the LH and RH engine inboard and outboard pylon lower link lugs. ANAC AD 2020-01-02R3 also includes an optional terminating action for the repetitive inspections, which consists of revising the maintenance or inspection program, as applicable, to incorporate airworthiness limitations for pylon lower link fittings. 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.

Costs of Compliance

The FAA estimates that this AD affects 659 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 |
|-------------|-------------------------------------|------------|------------------|------------------------|
| Inspections | 3 work-hour × \$85 per hour = \$255 | \$0 | \$255 | \$168,045 |

The FAA has received no definitive data that would enable the agency to provide cost estimates for the oncondition repair specified in this AD.

For the optional terminating action, the FAA has determined that revising the existing maintenance or inspection program takes an average of 90 workhours per operator, although the agency recognizes that this number may vary from operator to operator. Since operators incorporate maintenance or inspection program changes for their affected fleet(s), the FAA has determined that a per-operator estimate is more accurate than a per-airplane estimate. Therefore, if the optional terminating action is done, the agency estimates the average total cost per

operator would be \$7,650 (90 workhours \times \$85 per work-hour).

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,
- (2) Will not affect intrastate aviation in Alaska, 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.

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:
- a. Removing Airworthiness Directive (AD) 2020–12–12, Amendment 39–19921 (85 FR 41175, July 9, 2020); and
- b. Adding the following new AD:

2025–14–05 Embraer S.A. (Type Certificate Previously Held by Yaborā Indústria Aeronáutica S.A.; Embraer S.A.): Amendment 39–23083; Docket No. FAA–2025–0022; Project Identifier MCAI–2023–00910–T.

(a) Effective Date

This airworthiness directive (AD) is effective August 25, 2025.

(b) Affected ADs

This AD replaces AD 2020–12–12, Amendment 39–19921 (85 FR 41175, July 9, 2020) (AD 2020–12–12).

(c) Applicability

This AD applies to the Embraer S.A. (Type Certificate Previously Held by Yaborã Indústria Aeronáutica S.A.; Embraer S.A.) airplanes, certificated in any category, identified in paragraphs (c)(1) and (2) of this AD, as identified in Agência Nacional de Aviação Civil (ANAC) AD 2020–01–02R3, effective October 17, 2024; corrected October 15, 2024 (ANAC AD 2020–01–02R3).

- (1) Model ERJ 170–100 LR, –100 STD, –100 SE, –100 SU, –200 LR, –200 SU, –200 STD, and –200 LL airplanes.
- (2) Model ERJ 190–100 STD, –100 LR, –100 ECJ, –100 IGW, –200 STD, –200 LR, and –200 IGW airplanes.

(d) Subject

Air Transport Association (ATA) of America Code 54, Nacelles/Pylons.

(e) Unsafe Condition

This AD was prompted by reports of cracking on the left-hand (LH) and right-hand (RH) sides of engine pylon inboard lower link lugs, and by the determination that certain compliance times in AD 2020–12–12 must be reduced and the inboard lower link lugs must be replaced with new titanium lugs on certain airplanes. The FAA is issuing this AD to address cracks on the LH and RH sides of engine pylon inboard lower link lugs. The unsafe condition, if not addressed, could cause the loss of engine pylon integrity, which could result in engine separation from the wing, loss of airplane controllability, and possible injury to persons on ground.

(f) Compliance

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

(g) Requirements

Except as specified in paragraphs (h) and (i) of this AD: Comply with all required actions and compliance times specified in, and in accordance with, ANAC AD 2020–01–02R3.

(h) Exceptions to ANAC AD 2020-01-02R3

- (1) Where ANAC AD 2020–01–02R3 refers to "28 January 2020, the effective date of original revision of this AD," this AD requires using August 13, 2020 (the effective date of AD 2020–12–12).
- (2) Where ANAC AD 2020–01–02R3 refers to "July 18, 2023, the effective date of AD 2020–01–02R1," this AD requires using the effective date of this AD.
- (3) Where ANAC AD 2020–01–02R3 refers to its effective date, this AD requires using the effective date of this AD.
- (4) Where the "Threshold" column of the tables in ANAC AD 2020–01–02R3 refer to "FC" and "FH," for this AD, those flight cycles and flight hours are since the date of issuance of the original airworthiness certificate or the original export certificate of airworthiness, except for the compliance times that correspond to flagnote "[5]" of the table following paragraph (b)(1) of ANAC AD 2020–01–02R3 and flagnote "[3]" of the table following paragraph (b)(2) of ANAC AD 2020–01–02R3.
- (5) Where the tables in ANAC AD 2020–01–02R3 refer to "ou", this AD requires replacing that text with "or".
- (6) Where the last column of the table following paragraph (c)(2) of ANAC AD 2020–01–02R3 refers to "Intervalo", this AD requires replacing that text with "Interval".
- (7) Where ANAC AD 2020–01–02R3 requires contacting "ANAC and Embraer . . . to approve an adequate repair", for this AD, before further flight obtain repair instructions using the procedures specified in paragraph (k)(2) of this AD and do the repair.
- (8) This AD does not adopt paragraph (g)(3) of ANAC AD 2020–01–02R3.

(i) No Reporting Requirement

Although ANAC AD 2020–01–02R3 specifies to submit an inspection report after each inspection, this AD does not include that requirement.

(j) Provisions for Alternative Actions, Critical Design Configuration Control Limitations (CDCCLs), and Intervals

After the existing maintenance or inspection program has been revised as specified in paragraph (g) of this AD, no alternative actions (e.g., inspections), CDCLs, and intervals are allowed unless they are approved as specified in paragraph (d) of ANAC AD 2020–01–02R3.

(k) Additional AD Provisions

The following provisions also apply to this AD:

- (1) Alternative Methods of Compliance (AMOCs): The Manager, AIR-520, Continued Operational Safety 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 Continued Operational Safety Branch, mail it to the address identified in paragraph (1) of this AD. Information may be emailed to: AMOC@ faa.gov.
- (i) Before using any approved AMOC, notify your appropriate principal inspector, or lacking a principal inspector, the manager of the responsible Flight Standards Office.
- (ii) AMOCs approved previously for AD 2020–12–12 are approved as AMOCs for the corresponding provisions of ANAC AD 2020–01–02R3 that are required by paragraph (g) of this AD.
- (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, AIR–520, Continued Operational Safety Branch, FAA; or ANAC; or ANAC's authorized Designee. If approved by the ANAC Designee, the approval must include the Designee's authorized signature.

(l) Additional Information

For more information about this AD, contact Krista Greer, Aviation Safety Engineer, FAA, 2200 South 216th Street, Des Moines, WA 98198; phone: 206–231–3221; email: krista.greer@faa.gov.

(m) Material Incorporated by Reference

- (1) The Director of the Federal Register approved the incorporation by reference of the material listed in this paragraph under 5 U.S.C. 552(a) and 1 CFR part 51.
- (2) You must use this material as applicable to do the actions required by this AD, unless this AD specifies otherwise.
- (i) Agência Nacional de Aviação Civil (ANAC) AD 2020–01–02R3, effective October 17, 2024; corrected October 15, 2024.
 - (ii) [Reserved]
- (3) For ANAC material identified in this AD, contact ANAC, Aeronautical Products Certification Branch (GGCP), Rua Dr. Orlando Feirabend Filho, 230—Centro Empresarial Aquarius—Torre B—Andares 14 a 18, Parque Residencial Aquarius, CEP 12.246–190—São José dos Campos—SP, Brazil; telephone 55 (12) 3203–6600; email pac@anac.gov.br. You may find this material on the ANAC website at sistemas.anac.gov.br/certificacao/DA/DAE.asp.

- (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 July 11, 2025.

Lona C. Saccomando,

Acting Deputy Director, Integrated Certificate Management Division, Aircraft Certification Service.

[FR Doc. 2025–13596 Filed 7–18–25; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-13-P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Aviation Administration

14 CFR Part 39

[Docket No. FAA-2024-1880; Project Identifier AD-2023-01149-T; Amendment 39-23088; AD 2025-15-01]

RIN 2120-AA64

Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes

AGENCY: Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), DOT.

ACTION: Final rule.

SUMMARY: The FAA is adopting a new airworthiness directive (AD) for all The Boeing Company Model 737–600, –700, –700C, –800, –900, and –900ER series airplanes. This AD was prompted by a report of a frame web crack at a certain fuselage station (STA) between certain stringers common to the frame web notch. This AD requires repetitive inspections for cracks of the frames and repair of cracks. The FAA is issuing this AD to address the unsafe condition on these products.

DATES: This AD is effective August 25, 2025.

The Director of the Federal Register approved the incorporation by reference of a certain publication listed in this AD as of August 25, 2025.

ADDRESSES:

AD Docket: You may examine the AD docket at regulations.gov under Docket No. FAA–2024–1880; 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, any comments received, and other information. The address for Docket Operations is U.S. Department of Transportation, Docket Operations, M–30, West Building

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

Material Incorporated by Reference:

- For Boeing material identified in this AD, contact Boeing Commercial Airplanes, Attention: Contractual & Data Services (C&DS), 2600 Westminster Blvd., MC 110–SK57, Seal Beach, CA 90740–5600; telephone 562–797–1717; website myboeingfleet.com.
- 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. It is also available at regulations.gov under Docket No. FAA–2024–1880.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Owen Bley-Male, Aviation Safety Engineer, FAA, 2200 South 216th St., Des Moines, WA 98198; phone: 206– 231–3992; email: Owen.F.Bley-Male@ faa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

The FAA issued a notice of proposed rulemaking (NPRM) to amend 14 CFR part 39 by adding an AD that would apply to all The Boeing Company Model 737-600, -700, -700C, -800, -900, and -900ER series airplanes. The NPRM published in the **Federal Register** on July 2, 2024 (89 FR 54737). The NPRM was prompted by a report of a frame web crack at fuselage STA 328 between stringers S-20R and S-21R on a Model 737–700 airplane. The crack was common to the frame web notch and was approximately 0.85 inch long. In the NPRM, the FAA proposed to require repetitive detailed and high frequency eddy current (HFEC) inspections for cracks of the frames and repair of any cracks. The FAA is issuing this AD to address undetected cracks in the frame, which could lead to the inability of the principal structural element to sustain limit loads and result in the subsequent loss of structural integrity of the airplane.

Discussion of Final Airworthiness Directive

Comments

The FAA received a comment from United Airlines, which supported the NPRM without change.

The FAA also received comments from Aviation Partners Boeing, The Boeing Company (Boeing), Southwest Airlines (Southwest), and Sudan Civil Aviation Authority (Sudan CAA). The following presents the comments received on the NPRM and the FAA's response to each comment.

Effect of Winglets on Accomplishment of the Proposed Actions

Aviation Partners Boeing stated that installing winglets under Supplemental Type Certificate (STC) ST00830SE does not affect accomplishment of the actions specified in the proposed AD.

The FAA agrees. The FAA has redesignated paragraph (c) of the proposed AD as paragraph (c)(1) of this AD and added paragraph (c)(2) to this AD to state that installation of STC ST00830SE does not affect the ability to accomplish the actions required by this AD. Therefore, for airplanes on which STC ST00830SE is installed, a "change in product" alternative method of compliance (AMOC) approval request is not necessary to comply with the requirements of 14 CFR 39.17.

Request To Revise Stringer Range

Boeing requested the FAA clarify the preamble with respect to the stringer range for each affected frame. Boeing noted that the Background section of the NPRM identifies the affected area as "STA 312, STA 328, and STA 344 from stringers S–20R to S–23R." Boeing requested that the text specify the stringer range for each frame and be changed to "STA 312 (Stringers S–20R to S–23R), STA 328 (Stringers S–19R to S–22R), and STA 344 (Stringers S–20R to S–23R)."

The FAA agrees that the requested change would clarify the affected area. However, as this information from the NPRM is not restated in this final rule, no change is necessary as a result of this comment.

Requests Regarding Frame Replacement

Southwest requested the FAA change the proposed AD to allow replacement of a cracked frame with a new frame as an option instead of repairing the frame. Southwest further requested that, for frames replaced with a new frame, the FAA allow the compliance time to start from the date of the new frame installation. Southwest stated that this adjusted threshold is similar to the principle structural element replacement guidance in the FAA-approved airworthiness limitations for the affected model airplanes.

The FAA acknowledges that removal and replacement with type design parts is possible but does not agree to include this option in paragraph (h)(2) of this AD or adjust the compliance time for allowing this replacement as a repair without complete substantiating data. Replacement might involve oversizing holes, replacing more than just the frame, or other actions that would