Proposed Rules

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This section of the FEDERAL REGISTER contains notices to the public of the proposed issuance of rules and regulations. The purpose of these notices is to give interested persons an opportunity to participate in the rule making prior to the adoption of the final rules.

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy

10 CFR Part 430

[Docket No. EE–RM–94–403]

RIN 1904–AA67

Energy Conservation Program for Consumer Products: Notice of Public Workshop on Clothes Washers Energy Efficiency Standards Rulemaking

AGENCY: Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, Department of Energy.

ACTION: Notice of Public Workshop.

SUMMARY: The Department will convene a public workshop to discuss revised analytical tools (e.g., life cycle cost, national energy forecasting, and shipment spreadsheets) and the assumptions to be used for the life-cycle-cost (LCC) analysis including some sample LCC results if available. The Department also will present a document stating the methodology and assumptions used for the reverse engineering analysis for the typical vertical-axis clothes washers. Additionally, the Department will report a tabulation of existing consumer research which it plans to use to address consumer issues.

DATES: The public workshop will be held on Wednesday, March 11, 1998, from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., and Thursday, March 12, 1998, from 9:00 a.m. to noon. Written comments (3 copies) must be received on or before April 15, 1998.

ADDRESSES: The workshop will be held at the U.S. Department of Energy, Room 1E–245, on March 11, 1998, and in Room 6E–069 on March 12, 1998, 1000 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20585. Comments should be addressed to Bryan Berringer at the address indicated below under Further Information.

Copies of the transcript of the public workshop, public comments received, and this notice may be read or purchased at the DOE Freedom of Information Reading Room, U.S. DOE, Forrestal Building, Room 1E–190, 1000 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20585, (202) 586–6020, between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Bryan Berringer, U.S. Department of Energy, Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, Forrestal Building, Mail Station EE–43, 1000 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20585–0121, (202) 586–0371, E-mail: Bryan.Berringer@HQ.DOE.GOV

Eugene Margolis, Esq., U. S. Department of Energy, Office of General Counsel, Forrestal Building, Mail Station GC–72, 1000 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20585–3410, (202) 586–9507, E-mail: Eugene.Margolis@HQ.DOE.GOV

Ms. Brenda Edwards-Jones, U.S. Department of Energy, Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, U.S. Department of Energy, Mail Station EE–43, 1000 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20585–0121, (202) 586–2945, E-mail: Brenda.Edwards-Jones@HQ. DOE.GOV

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

The following topics will be discussed at this workshop:

1. Overview of the current clothes washers rulemaking schedule and process.

2. Discussion of Revised Analytical Tools, Data and Assumptions: The Department seeks input on the revised analytical tools, data, and assumptions to be used for the life-cycle-cost analysis.

A. *Life-Cycle-Cost:* The Department will present a revised life-cycle-cost spreadsheet model that has been developed which will account for variability of key criteria, such as, energy prices and water heater fuel type. The spreadsheet includes the cost and energy efficiency level data obtained.

B. *Price:* To obtain prices as an input to the LCC spreadsheet, the Department will present a draft discussion paper on the assumptions for mark-ups for clothes washer rulemaking analysis.

C. *National Energy Savings Forecasts:* The Department will review the spreadsheet discussed at the previous workshop.

D. *Shipment Forecasts:* The Department will present alternative approaches to obtain shipment data for the National Energy Savings spreadsheet.

3. *Reverse Engineering Approach:* The Department will present a document stating the methodology and assumptions used for the reverse engineering analysis for the typical vertical-axis clothes washers.

4. *Consumer Issues:* The Department will report a tabulation of existing consumer research which it plans to use to address consumer issues.

Previously released and distributed information pertaining to this rulemaking include the following: An Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking to Amend the Energy Conservation Standards for Three Cleaning Products, published on November 14, 1994 (59 FR 56423), and comments thereon; Draft Report on the Preliminary Engineering Analysis for Clothes Washers (October, 1996); Draft Report on Design Options for Clothes Washers (October, 1996); Draft Clothes Washers Rulemaking Framework (July 8, 1997); and the transcript from the November 15, 1996, and July 23, 1997, Workshops and comments relating to the workshops. Copies of these materials may be read or purchased at the DOE Freedom of Information Reading Room. You can contact the Freedom of Information Reading Room at the above address and phone number for further information.

The Department also welcomes written comments on the items to be presented at the workshop until April 15, 1998. Written comments or recommendations (3 copies) should be submitted to Bryan Berringer at the above listed address.

Copies of the preliminary material for the workshop, including spreadsheets, will be available beginning the week of February 16, 1998, on the Office of Codes and Standards web site which is as follows: http://www.eren.doe.gov/buildings/codes__standards/index.htm. If you have any questions, or plan to attend the workshop, or if you are unable to access the web site and wish to obtain material for the workshop, please contact Ms. Brenda Edwards-Jones at (202) 586–2945 or Mr. Bryan Berringer at (202) 586–0371, or (202) 586–4617 by fax.

Issued in Washington, DC, on February 26, 1998.

Dan W. Reicher,

Assistant Secretary, Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy.

[FR Doc. 98–5544 Filed 3–3–98; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Aviation Administration

14 CFR Part 39

[Docket No. 96–NM–103–AD]

RIN 2120–AA64

Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Model A320 Series Airplanes

AGENCY: Federal Aviation Administration, DOT.

ACTION: Notice of proposed rulemaking (NPRM).

SUMMARY: This document proposes the adoption of a new airworthiness directive (AD) that is applicable to certain Airbus Model A320 series airplanes. This proposal would require installation of a rubber strip, and replacement of connection sheets and the seal retainer on the avionics compartment access door with new parts; and installation of drip pans and additional drain gutters on the avionics racks. This proposal is prompted by issuance of mandatory continuing airworthiness information by a foreign civil airworthiness authority. The actions specified by the proposed AD are intended to prevent the trickling of water into the avionics compartment, which could result in avionics computer and equipment malfunctions.

DATES: Comments must be received by April 3, 1998.

ADDRESSES: Submit comments in triplicate to the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), Transport Airplane Directorate, ANM–114, Attention: Rules Docket No. 96–NM–103–AD, 1601 Lind Avenue, SW., Renton, Washington 98055–4056. Comments may be inspected at this location between 9:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays.

The service information referenced in the proposed rule may be obtained from Airbus Industrie, 1 Rond Point Maurice Bellonte, 31707 Blagnac Cedex, France. This information may be examined at the FAA, Transport Airplane Directorate, 1601 Lind Avenue, SW., Renton, Washington.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Norman B. Martenson, Manager, International Branch, ANM–116, FAA, Transport Airplane Directorate, 1601 Lind Avenue, SW., Renton, Washington 98055–4056; telephone (425) 227–2110; fax (425) 227–1149.

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 shall 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 notice 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 notice must submit a self-addressed, stamped postcard on which the following statement is made: ''Comments to Docket Number 96–NM–103–AD.'' The postcard will be date stamped and returned to the commenter.

Availability of NPRMs

Any person may obtain a copy of this NPRM by submitting a request to the FAA, Transport Airplane Directorate, ANM–114, Attention: Rules Docket No. 96–NM–103–AD, 1601 Lind Avenue, SW., Renton, Washington 98055–4056.

Discussion

The Direction Générale de l'Aviation Civile (DGAC), which is the airworthiness authority for France, notified the FAA that an unsafe condition may exist on certain Airbus Model A320 series airplanes. The DGAC advises that it has received several reports of reduced operation of the avionics compartment computers due to water spillage in the galley and the trickling of water into the electrical connectors located below the floor panels of the galley. This condition, if not corrected, could result in avionics computer and equipment malfunctions.

Explanation of Relevant Service Information

Airbus has issued Service Bulletin A320–53–1070, Revision 6, dated July 18, 1995, which describes procedures for installation of a rubber strip, and replacement of connection sheets and the seal retainer on the avionics compartment access door with new parts.

In addition, Airbus has issued Service Bulletin A320–24–1054, Revision 2, dated September 22, 1993, which describes procedures for installation of drip pans and additional drain gutters on the avionics racks.

Accomplishment of the actions specified in the service bulletins is intended to adequately address the identified unsafe condition. The DGAC classified these service bulletins as mandatory and issued French airworthiness directives 96–011–075(B), dated January 3, 1996, and 96–040–076(B), dated February 14, 1996, in order to assure the continued airworthiness of these airplanes in France.

FAA's Conclusions

This airplane model is manufactured in France and is type certificated for operation in the United States under the provisions of section 21.29 of the Federal Aviation Regulations (14 CFR 21.29) and the applicable bilateral airworthiness agreement. Pursuant to this bilateral airworthiness agreement, the DGAC has kept the FAA informed of the situation described above. The FAA has examined the findings of the DGAC, reviewed all available information, and determined that AD action is necessary for products of this type design that are certificated for operation in the United States.

Explanation of Requirements of Proposed Rule

Since an unsafe condition has been identified that is likely to exist or develop on other airplanes of the same type design registered in the United States, the proposed AD would require accomplishment of the actions specified in the service bulletins described previously.

Cost Impact

The FAA estimates that 118 airplanes of U.S. registry would be affected by this proposed AD.

It would take approximately 3 work hours per airplane to accomplish the actions specified in Airbus Service Bulletin A320–53–1070, at an average labor rate of $60 per work hour. Required parts would cost approximately $1,273 per airplane.