

**New Requirements of This AD**

(e) Within 6 months after the effective date of this AD, install new MLG shock strut upper and lower attachment pins in accordance with Canadair Regional Jet Service Bulletin S.B. 601R-32-065, dated November 11, 1996. Accomplishment of this installation constitutes terminating action for the repetitive inspections required by paragraphs (b) and (c) of this AD.

**Note 4:** The Canadair service bulletin references Messier-Dowty Service Bulletin M-DT 17002-32-12, dated November 6, 1996, as an additional source of service information to accomplish the installation.

(f)(1) An alternative method of compliance or adjustment of the compliance time that provides an acceptable level of safety may be used if approved by the Manager, New York Aircraft Certification Office (ACO), FAA, Engine and Propeller Directorate. Operators shall submit their requests through an appropriate FAA Principal Maintenance Inspector, who may add comments and then send it to the Manager, New York ACO.

(2) Alternative methods of compliance, approved previously in accordance with AD 96-22-14, amendment 39-9803, are approved as alternative methods of compliance with this AD.

**Note 5:** Information concerning the existence of approved alternative methods of compliance with this AD, if any, may be obtained from the New York ACO.

(g) Special flight permits may be issued in accordance with sections 21.197 and 21.199 of the Federal Aviation Regulations (14 CFR 21.197 and 21.199) to operate the airplane to a location where the requirements of this AD can be accomplished.

**Note 6:** The subject of this AD is addressed in Canadian airworthiness directive CF-96-12R1, dated January 29, 1997.

Issued in Renton, Washington, on June 3, 1998.

**Darrell M. Pederson,**

*Acting Manager, Transport Airplane Directorate, Aircraft Certification Service.*

[FR Doc. 98-15252 Filed 6-8-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-13-U

**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION****Federal Aviation Administration****14 CFR Part 39**

[Docket No. 98-NM-151-AD]

RIN 2120-AA64

**Airworthiness Directives; Saab Model SAAB 2000 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 Saab Model SAAB 2000 series airplanes. This proposal would require a one-time inspection for cracking of the rear pressure bulkhead; and installation of a reinforcement angle on the rear pressure bulkhead; or repair, if necessary. 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 cracking of the rear pressure bulkhead, which could result in sudden loss of cabin pressure and the inability to withstand fail-safe loads.

**DATES:** Comments must be received by July 9, 1998.

**ADDRESSES:** Submit comments in triplicate to the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), Transport Airplane Directorate, ANM-114, Attention: Rules Docket No. 98-NM-151-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 Saab Aircraft AB, SAAB Aircraft Product Support, S-581.88, Linköping, Sweden. 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 98-NM-151-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. 98-NM-151-AD, 1601 Lind Avenue, SW., Renton, Washington 98055-4056.

**Discussion**

The Luftfartsverket (LFV), which is the airworthiness authority for Sweden, notified the FAA that an unsafe condition may exist on certain Saab Model SAAB 2000 series airplanes. The LFV advises that, during full-scale fatigue testing on a test article, a crack was detected on the radius of the lower forward flange that connects the rear pressure bulkhead to the fuselage skin. The crack occurred when the test article reached 68,000 simulated flights. The LFV further advises that reinforcement of the lower forward flange area that connects the rear pressure bulkhead to the fuselage skin is required to meet the design life of the airplane. Such cracking, if not corrected, could result in sudden loss of cabin pressure and the inability to withstand fail-safe loads.

**Explanation of Relevant Service Information**

The manufacturer has issued SAAB Service Bulletin 2000-53-026, dated February 27, 1998, which describes procedures for a one-time inspection to detect cracking of the rear pressure bulkhead in the area of the lower forward flange that connects to the fuselage skin. Additionally, for airplanes on which no cracking is found, the service bulletin describes procedures for installation of a reinforcement angle on the rear pressure bulkhead in the area of the lower forward flange that connects to the fuselage skin. Accomplishment of the actions specified in the service bulletin is intended to adequately address the identified unsafe condition. The LFV classified this service bulletin as mandatory and issued Swedish airworthiness directive 1-122, dated March 2, 1998, in order to assure the

continued airworthiness of these airplanes in Sweden.

### FAA's Conclusions

This airplane model is manufactured in Sweden 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 LFV has kept the FAA informed of the situation described above. The FAA has examined the findings of the LFV, 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 actions specified in the service bulletin described previously, except as discussed below.

### Differences Between Proposed Rule and Service Bulletin

Operators should note that although the service bulletin specifies that the manufacturer may be contacted for disposition of cracks, this proposal would require the repair of those cracks be accomplished in accordance with a method approved by either the Manager, International Branch, ANM-116, FAA Transport Directorate; or the LFV (or its delegated agent). In light of the type of repair that would be required to address the identified unsafe condition, and in consonance with existing bilateral airworthiness agreements, the FAA has determined that, for this proposed AD, a repair approved by either the FAA or the LFV (or its delegated agent) would be acceptable for compliance with this proposed AD.

### Cost Impact

The FAA estimates that 3 airplanes of U.S. registry would be affected by this proposed AD.

It would take approximately 6 work hours per airplane to accomplish the proposed inspection, at an average labor rate of \$60 per work hour. Based on these figures, the cost impact of the inspection proposed by this AD on U.S. operators is estimated to be \$1,080, or \$360 per airplane.

The proposed installation would take approximately 10 work hours per airplane, at an average labor rate of \$60

per work hour. Based on these figures, the cost impact of the installation proposed by this AD on U.S. operators is estimated to be \$1,800, or \$600 per airplane.

The cost impact figures discussed above are based on assumptions that no operator has yet accomplished any of the proposed requirements of this AD action, and that no operator would accomplish those actions in the future if this AD were not adopted.

### Regulatory Impact

The regulations proposed herein would not have substantial direct effects 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. Therefore, in accordance with Executive Order 12612, it is determined that this proposal would not have sufficient federalism implications to warrant the preparation of a Federalism Assessment.

For the reasons discussed above, I certify that 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); and (3) if promulgated, 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. A copy of the draft regulatory evaluation prepared for this action is contained in the Rules Docket. A copy of it may be obtained by contacting the Rules Docket at the location provided under the caption ADDRESSES.

### List of Subjects in 14 CFR Part 39

Air transportation, Aircraft, Aviation safety, Safety.

### The Proposed Amendment

Accordingly, pursuant to the authority delegated to me by the Administrator, the Federal Aviation Administration proposes to amend part 39 of the Federal Aviation Regulations (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. Section 39.13 is amended by adding the following new airworthiness directive:

**SAAB Aircraft AB:** Docket 98-NM-151-AD.

*Applicability:* Model SAAB 2000 series airplanes, manufacturer serial numbers 004 through 050 inclusive, 052, 053, and 054; certificated in any category.

**Note 1:** This AD applies to each airplane identified in the preceding applicability provision, regardless of whether it has been modified, altered, or repaired in the area subject to the requirements of this AD. For airplanes that have been modified, altered, or repaired so that the performance of the requirements of this AD is affected, the owner/operator must request approval for an alternative method of compliance in accordance with paragraph (b) of this AD. The request should include an assessment of the effect of the modification, alteration, or repair on the unsafe condition addressed by this AD; and, if the unsafe condition has not been eliminated, the request should include specific proposed actions to address it.

*Compliance:* Required as indicated, unless accomplished previously.

To prevent cracking on the rear pressure bulkhead, which could result in sudden loss of cabin pressure and the inability to withstand fail-safe loads, accomplish the following:

(a) Within 4,000 flight cycles after the effective date of this AD, perform a one-time visual inspection for cracking on the rear pressure bulkhead in the area of the lower forward flange that connects to the fuselage skin, in accordance with SAAB Service Bulletin 2000-53-026, dated February 27, 1998.

(1) If no crack is detected, prior to further flight, install a reinforcement angle on the rear pressure bulkhead in the area of the lower forward flange that connects to the fuselage skin, in accordance with the service bulletin. After accomplishment of the installation, no further action is required by this AD.

(2) If any crack is detected, prior to further flight, repair in accordance with a method approved by either the Manager, International Branch, ANM-116, FAA, Transport Airplane Directorate, or the Luftfartsverket (or its delegated agent).

(b) An alternative method of compliance or adjustment of the compliance time that provides an acceptable level of safety may be used if approved by the Manager, International Branch, ANM-116. Operators shall submit their request through an appropriate FAA Principal Maintenance Inspector, who may add comments and then send it to the Manager, International Branch, ANM-116.

**Note 2:** Information concerning the existence of approved alternative methods of compliance with this AD, if any, may be obtained from the International Branch, ANM-116.

(c) Special flight permits may be issued in accordance with sections 21.197 and 21.199 of the Federal Aviation Regulations (14 CFR 21.197 and 21.199) to operate the airplane to a location where the requirements of this AD can be accomplished.

**Note 3:** The subject of this AD is addressed in Swedish airworthiness directive 1-122, dated March 2, 1998.

Issued in Renton, Washington, on June 3, 1998.

**Darrell M. Pederson,**

*Acting Manager, Transport Airplane Directorate, Aircraft Certification Service.*  
[FR Doc. 98-15248 Filed 6-8-98; 8:45 am]  
BILLING CODE 4910-13-U

## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

### Federal Aviation Administration

#### 14 CFR Part 39

[Docket No. 96-NM-113-AD]

RIN 2120-AA64

#### Airworthiness Directives; Dornier Model 328-100 Series Airplanes

**AGENCY:** Federal Aviation Administration, DOT.

**ACTION:** Supplemental notice of proposed rulemaking; reopening of comment period.

**SUMMARY:** This document revises an earlier proposed airworthiness directive (AD), applicable to certain Dornier Model 328-100 series airplanes, that would have required repetitive inspections to detect cracking of the support beam of the main landing gear (MLG) fairing; and permanent repair of any cracking found, which would terminate the repetitive inspections. This new action revises the proposed rule by adding a requirement for installation of reinforcement parts for the longitudinal beam of the MLG fairing, which also would terminate the repetitive inspections. This new action also limits the applicability of the proposed rule. This proposal is prompted by issuance of mandatory continuing airworthiness information by a foreign civil airworthiness authority. The actions specified by this new proposed AD are intended to prevent cracking of the support beam of the MLG fairing, which could result in reduced structural integrity of the lower part of the MLG fairing, and consequent separation of part of the fairing from the airplane and possible damage to the airplane or injury to persons on the ground.

**DATES:** Comments must be received by July 6, 1998.

**ADDRESSES:** Submit comments in triplicate to the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), Transport Airplane Directorate, ANM-114, Attention: Rules Docket No. 96-NM-113-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 FAIRCHILD DORNIER, DORNIER Luftfahrt GmbH, P.O. Box 1103, D-82230 Wessling, Germany. 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-113-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-113-AD, 1601 Lind Avenue, SW., Renton, Washington 98055-4056.

##### Discussion

A proposal to amend part 39 of the Federal Aviation Regulations (14 CFR part 39) to add an airworthiness

directive (AD), applicable to certain Dornier Model 328-100 series airplanes, was published as a notice of proposed rulemaking (NPRM) in the **Federal Register** on April 9, 1997 (62 FR 17129). That NPRM would have required repetitive inspections to detect cracking of the support beam of the main landing gear (MLG) fairing; and permanent repair of any cracking found, which would terminate the repetitive inspections. That NPRM was prompted by reports of cracking of the support beam of the MLG fairing. That condition, if not corrected, could result in reduced structural integrity of the lower part of the MLG fairing, and consequent separation of part of the fairing from the airplane and possible damage to the airplane or injury to persons on the ground.

##### Disposition of Comments

Due consideration has been given to the comments received in response to the NPRM.

##### Request To Cite Additional Service Information

One commenter, the manufacturer, requests that the FAA revise the proposal to reference Dornier Service Bulletin SB-328-53-184, Revision 1, dated July 2, 1997. That service bulletin describes procedures for installation of reinforcement parts for the longitudinal beam of the MLG fairing, which would eliminate the need for the repetitive inspections. The effectivity listing of the service bulletin limits accomplishment of the installation of reinforcement parts to those airplanes on which the installation was not accomplished in production. Accomplishment of the action specified in the service bulletin is intended to adequately address the identified unsafe condition. The Luftfahrt-Bundesamt (LBA), which is the airworthiness authority for Germany, classified the original release of this service bulletin, dated January 10, 1997, as mandatory and issued German airworthiness directive 97-073, dated March 27, 1997, in order to assure the continued airworthiness of these airplanes in Germany.

The FAA concurs with the commenter's request. The FAA finds that accomplishment of the terminating action is necessary within 3,000 hours time-in-service, as specified in the German airworthiness directive. The FAA has revised this supplemental NPRM accordingly. Additionally, the cost impact information, below, has been revised to reflect any additional costs to operators.