

Applicability: Model SD3-30 series airplanes that have been modified in accordance with Shorts Service Bulletin SD330-30-30, dated June 1988; certificated in any category.

Note 1: This AD applies to each airplane identified in the preceding applicability provision, regardless of whether it has been otherwise 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 failure of the autofeather system, which could result in reduced controllability of the airplane in the event of engine failure during takeoff, accomplish the following:

Required Modification

(a) Within 60 days after the effective date of this AD, modify electrical wiring associated with component heaters in accordance with Shorts Service Bulletin SD330-30-33, dated June 1998.

Note 2: Shorts Service Bulletin SD330-30-33, dated June 1998, references Shorts Service Bulletin SD330-30-30, Revision 1, dated September 1997, as an additional source of service information for modifying the electrical wiring and removing equipment associated with component heaters. Operators should note that Shorts Service Bulletin SD330-30-30, Revision 1, dated September 1997, requires that Pratt & Whitney Service Bulletin No. 3222, Revision No. 2, be incorporated prior to or in conjunction with the service bulletin.

Alternative Methods of Compliance

(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, FAA, Transport Airplane Directorate. Operators shall submit their requests through an appropriate FAA Principal Maintenance Inspector, who may add comments and then send it to the Manager, International Branch, ANM-116.

Note 3: Information concerning the existence of approved alternative methods of compliance with this AD, if any, may be obtained from the International Branch, ANM-116.

Special Flight Permits

(c) Special flight permits may be issued in accordance with §§ 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 4: The subject of this AD is addressed in British airworthiness directive 003-06-98.

Issued in Renton, Washington, on June 22, 1999.

D.L. Riggins,

Acting Manager, Transport Airplane Directorate, Aircraft Certification Service.

[FR Doc. 99-16335 Filed 6-25-99; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Aviation Administration

14 CFR Part 39

[Docket No. 99-NM-106-AD]

RIN 2120-AA64

Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Model A319, A320, and A321 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 A319, A320, and A321 series airplanes. This proposal would require modification of the electro-distributor for the nose wheel steering servo-control. 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 uncommanded nose landing gear wheel rotation, due to defective seals in the wheel steering selector valve of the hydraulic control unit for the nose landing gear, which could result in reduced controllability of the airplane.

DATES: Comments must be received by July 28, 1999.

ADDRESSES: Submit comments in triplicate to the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), Transport Airplane Directorate, ANM-114, Attention: Rules Docket No. 99-NM-106-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 99-NM-106-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. 99-NM-106-AD, 1601 Lind Avenue, SW., Renton, Washington 98055-4056.

Discussion

The Direction GORALE 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 A319, A320, and A321 series airplanes. The DGAC advises that there have been several cases of uncommanded nose landing gear wheel rotation on in-service airplanes. Such uncommanded rotation was caused by defective seals in the wheel steering selector valve of the hydraulic control unit for the nose landing gear, which resulted in failure of the nose landing gear wheel steering system. The seals

were found to be extruded due to aging or the absence of a backup ring. Uncommanded nose landing gear wheel rotation, if not corrected, could result in reduced controllability of the airplane.

Explanation of Relevant Service Information

Airbus has issued Service Bulletin A320-32-1197, Revision 01, dated February 11, 1999, which describes procedures for modification of the electro-distributor for the nose wheel steering servo-control. The modification involves replacing the O-ring seals fitted to the electro-distributor with new "GREENE TWEED" seals with a back-up ring. Accomplishment of the action specified in the service bulletin is intended to adequately address the identified unsafe condition. The DGAC classified this service bulletin as mandatory and issued French airworthiness directive 1999-124-129(B), dated March 24, 1999, in order to assure the continued airworthiness of these airplanes in France.

Airbus Service Bulletin A320-32-1197 references MESSIER-BUGATTI Service Bulletin C24736-32-3166, dated December 4, 1998, as an additional source of service information for accomplishment of the modification.

FAA's Conclusions

These airplane models are manufactured in France and are type certificated for operation in the United States under the provisions of § 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 action specified in the service bulletin described previously.

Cost Impact

The FAA estimates that 208 airplanes of U.S. registry would be affected by this proposed AD, that it would take approximately 7 work hours per airplane to accomplish the proposed

modification, and that the average labor rate is \$60 per work hour. Required parts would cost approximately \$335 per airplane. Based on these figures, the cost impact of the proposed AD on U.S. operators is estimated to be \$157,040, or \$755 per airplane.

The cost impact figure discussed above is 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:

Airbus Industrie: Docket 99-NM-106-AD.

Applicability: Model A319, A320, and A321 series airplanes; except those airplanes on which Airbus Modification 23740 was accomplished during production, and those airplanes on which Airbus Service Bulletin A320-32-1197, dated October 9, 1998, or Revision 01, dated February 11, 1999, has been accomplished; certificated in any category.

Note 1: This AD applies to each airplane identified in the preceding applicability provision, regardless of whether it has been otherwise 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 (c) 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 uncommanded nose landing gear wheel rotation, due to defective seals in the wheel steering selector valve of the hydraulic control unit for the nose landing gear, which could result in reduced controllability of the airplane, accomplish the following:

Modification

(a) Within 12 months after the effective date of this AD, modify the electro-distributor for the nose wheel steering servo-control in accordance with Airbus Industrie Service Bulletin A320-32-1197, Revision 01, dated February 11, 1999.

Note 2: Airbus Service Bulletin A320-32-1197 references MESSIER-BUGATTI Service Bulletin C24736-32-3166, dated December 4, 1998, as an additional source of service information for accomplishment of the modification.

Note 3: Replacement of the by-pass valve in accordance with MESSIER-BUGATTI Service Bulletin C24736-32-3126, dated February 15, 1995, as revised by Change Notice Number 1, dated March 16, 1999, is considered acceptable for compliance with the action specified in paragraph (a) of this AD.

Spares

(b) As of the effective date of this AD, no person shall install a hydraulic control unit, part number C24736000 or C24736001, on any airplane, unless it has been modified in accordance with the actions required by paragraph (a) of this AD.

Alternative Methods of Compliance

(c) 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, FAA, Transport Airplane Directorate. Operators shall submit their requests through an appropriate FAA Principal Maintenance Inspector, who may add comments and then send it to the Manager, International Branch, ANM-116.

Note 4: Information concerning the existence of approved alternative methods of compliance with this AD, if any, may be obtained from the International Branch, ANM-116.

Special Flight Permits

(d) Special flight permits may be issued in accordance with §§ 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 5: The subject of this AD is addressed in French airworthiness directive 1999-124-129(B), dated March 24, 1999.

Issued in Renton, Washington, on June 22, 1999.

D.L. Riggan,

Acting Manager, Transport Airplane Directorate, Aircraft Certification Service.

[FR Doc. 99-16334 Filed 6-25-99; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Aviation Administration

14 CFR Part 39

[Docket No. 99-NM-12-AD]

RIN 2120-AA64

Airworthiness Directives; Short Brothers Model SD3-SHERPA, SD3-60 SHERPA, SD3-30, and SD3-60 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 all Short Brothers Model SD3-SHERPA, SD3-60 SHERPA, SD3-30, and SD3-60 series airplanes. This proposal would require replacement of the existing bolts that secure the elevator control torque tube bearing housing retaining plate with hex head bolts. 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 reduced movement of the elevator controls and consequent reduced controllability of the airplane, as a result of bolts coming

loose on the elevator control torque tube bearing housing retaining plate.

DATES: Comments must be received by July 28, 1999.

ADDRESSES: Submit comments in triplicate to the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), Transport Airplane Directorate, ANM-114, Attention: Rules Docket No. 99-NM-12-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 Short Brothers, Airworthiness & Engineering Quality, P.O. Box 241, Airport Road, Belfast BT3 9DZ, Northern Ireland. 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 99-NM-12-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. 99-NM-12-AD, 1601 Lind Avenue, SW., Renton, Washington 98055-4056.

Discussion

The Civil Aviation Authority (CAA), which is the airworthiness authority for the United Kingdom, notified the FAA that an unsafe condition may exist on all Short Brothers Model SD3-SHERPA, SD3-60 SHERPA, SD3-30, and SD3-60 series airplanes. The CAA advises that the bolts that secure the elevator control torque tube bearing housing retaining plate to the pilots seat pedestal were found loose. The bolts became loose due to the existing design of the bolts, which does not allow for proper torquing upon installation. This condition, if not corrected, could result in bolts coming loose on the elevator control torque tube bearing housing retaining plate which could result in reduced movement of the elevator controls and consequent reduced controllability of the airplane.

Explanation of Relevant Service Information

Short Brothers has issued the following service bulletins:

- SD3 Sherpa-27-3, Revision 1, dated November 23, 1998 (for Model SD3-SHERPA series airplanes);
- SD3-60 Sherpa-27-3, Revision 1, dated November 23, 1998 (for Model SD3-60 SHERPA series airplanes);
- SD330-27-37, Revision 1, dated November 23, 1998 (for Model SD3-30 series airplanes); and
- SD360-27-28, Revision 1, dated November 23, 1998 (for Model SD3-60 series airplanes).

These service bulletins describe procedures for replacement of the existing bolts that secure the elevator control torque tube bearing housing retaining plate with hex head bolts. Accomplishment of the actions specified in the service bulletins is intended to adequately address the identified unsafe condition. The CAA classified these service bulletins as mandatory and issued British airworthiness directives 009-11-98, 010-11-98, 013-11-98, and 017-11-98, in order to assure the continued airworthiness of these airplanes in the United Kingdom.

FAA's Conclusions

These airplane models are manufactured in the United Kingdom