

**Note 3:** The requirements of this AD have been met when the engine manual changes are made and air carriers have modified their continuous airworthiness maintenance plans to reflect the requirements in the Engine Manuals.

Issued in Burlington, Massachusetts, on September 30, 1999.

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## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

### Federal Aviation Administration

#### 14 CFR Part 39

[Docket No. 98-ANE-66-AD]

RIN 2120-AA64

#### Airworthiness Directives; Pratt & Whitney PW4000 Series Turbofan Engines

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

**ACTION:** Notice of proposed rulemaking (NPRM).

**SUMMARY:** This document proposes the superseding of an existing airworthiness directive (AD), applicable to Pratt & Whitney PW4000 series turbofan engines, that currently requires revisions to the Time Limits Section of the manufacturer's Engine Manuals (EMs) to include required enhanced inspection of selected critical life-limited parts at each piece-part exposure. This action would add additional critical life-limited parts for enhanced inspection. This proposal is prompted by additional focused inspection procedures for other critical life-limited rotating engine parts that have been developed by the manufacturer. The actions specified by this proposed AD are intended to prevent critical life-limited rotating engine part failure, which could result in an uncontained engine failure and damage to the airplane.

**DATES:** Comments must be received by December 6, 1999.

**ADDRESSES:** Submit comments to the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), New England Region, Office of the Regional Counsel, Attention: Rules Docket No. 98-ANE-66-AD, 12 New England Executive Park, Burlington, MA 01803-5299. Comments may also be sent via the Internet using the following address: "9-ane-adcomment@faa.gov". Comments sent via the Internet must

contain the docket number in the subject line. Comments may be inspected at this location between 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays.

#### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Peter White, Aerospace Engineer, Engine Certification Office, FAA, Engine and Propeller Directorate, 12 New England Executive Park, Burlington, MA 01803-5299; telephone (781) 238-7128, fax (781) 238-7199.

#### 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 should 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-ANE-66-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, New England Region, Office of the Regional Counsel, Attention: Rules Docket No. 98-ANE-66-AD, 12 New England Executive Park, Burlington, MA 01803-5299.

##### Discussion

On April 2, 1999, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) issued airworthiness directive (AD) 99-08-15, Amendment 39-311121 (64 FR 17947, April 13, 1999), to require revisions to the Time Limits Section in the Engine Manuals (EMs) for certain Pratt &

Whitney (PW) PW4000 series turbofan engines to include required enhanced inspection of selected critical life-limited rotating components in the fan rotor at each piece-part exposure.

##### New Procedures and Parts

Since the issuance of that AD, additional focused inspection procedures for other critical life-limited rotating engine parts have been developed. The new parts are the:

- High Pressure Compressor (HPC) 5th stage disk
- HPC front drum rotor
- HPC rear drum rotor
- HPC 15th stage disk
- High Pressure Turbine (HPT) 1st stage airseal—on certain models
- HPT 2nd stage airseal—on certain models
- HPT 1st stage (front) hub
- HPT 2nd stage (rear) hub

##### Proposed Actions

Since an unsafe condition has been identified that is likely to exist or develop on other products of this same type design, the proposed AD would supersede AD 99-08-15 to require the additional critical life-limited rotating engine parts to be subject to focused inspection at each piece-part opportunity.

##### Changes From AD 99-08-15

The FAA has revised the piece-part definition to make it clearer at which assembly level (assembly or detail) inspection of the part is acceptable.

Also, the FAA has added additional part numbers (P/Ns) to the LPC Hub Assembly section of the AD to include the PW4098 models. While the inspections required for these parts were included in the manufacturer's service documentation upon entry into service and therefore do not need to be included in this AD, the FAA has included these P/Ns to make this AD an all-inclusive inspection requirement for all PW4000 series engine models.

Finally, the FAA has corrected an error in the LPC hub assembly, which was discovered in the original AD. The detail P/N for the LPC hub assembly P/N 51B631 was changed from "50B601" to "51B601."

##### Economic Analysis

The FAA estimates that 450 engines installed on airplanes of US registry would be affected by this proposed AD, that it would take approximately 8 work hours per engine to accomplish the proposed actions. The average labor rate is \$60 per work hour, the average Shop Visit Rate is .097, and the average usage is 3,250hrs/year/engine. Based on these

figures and assuming that on average 5 components per visit will require an inspection, the total cost impact of the proposed AD on US operators is estimated to be \$337,000 per year, or approximately \$750 per engine per year.

**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 removing Amendment 39-11121 (64 FR 17947, April 13, 1999), and by adding a new airworthiness directive, to read as follows:

**Pratt & Whitney:** Docket No. 98-ANE-66-AD. Supersedes AD 99-08-15, Amendment 39-11121.

**Applicability:** Pratt & Whitney (PW) Model PW4050, PW4052, PW4056, PW4060, PW4060A, PW4060C, PW4062, PW4152, PW4156, PW4156A, PW4158, PW4160, PW4460, PW4462, PW4168, PW4168A, PW4164, PW4074, PW4074D, PW4077, PW4077D, PW4084, PW4084D, PW4090, PW4090D, and PW4098 turbofan engines, installed on but not limited to Airbus A300, A310, and A330 series, Boeing 747, 767, and 777 series, and McDonnell Douglas MD-11 series airplanes.

**Note 1:** This airworthiness directive (AD) applies to each engine 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 engines 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 critical life-limited rotating engine part failure, which could result in an uncontained engine failure and damage to the airplane, accomplish the following:

**Inspections**

(a) Within the next 30 days after the effective date of this AD, revise the Time Limits Section of the manufacturer's Engine Manual (EM), Part Numbers (P/Ns) 50A605, 50A443, 51A342, 50A822, 51A751, and 51A345, as applicable, for PW Model PW4050, PW4052, PW4056, PW4060, PW4060A, PW4060C, PW4062, PW4152, PW4156, PW4156A, PW4158, PW4160, PW4460, PW4462, PW4168, PW4168A, PW4164, PW4074, PW4074D, PW4077, PW4077D, PW4084, PW4084D, PW4090, PW4090D, and PW4098 turbofan engines, and for air carrier operations revise the approved continuous airworthiness maintenance program, by adding the following:

**"MANDATORY INSPECTIONS**

(1) Perform inspections of the following parts at each piece-part opportunity in accordance with the instructions provided in the applicable PW4000 series Engine Cleaning, Inspection, and Repair (CIR) Manuals:

Nomenclature (description)	Part No.	CIR manual section	CIR manual inspection	CIR manual
Hub, LPC Assembly .....	50B221 (50B201 Detail); 50B321 (50B301 Detail); 51B321 (51B301 Detail); 52B021 (52B001 Detail).	72-31-07	Insp/Check-02 ..	51A357
	51B631 (51B601 Detail); 51B821 (51B801 Detail); 52B521 (52B501 Detail); 52B421 (52B401 Detail); 52B321 (52B101 Detail); 51B721 (52B101 Detail).	72-31-07	Insp/check-02 ...	51A750
HPC 5th stage disk .....	51H005; 51H905; 54H405; 54H705; 54H705-001; 56H605; 56H705.	72-35-06	Insp/Check-02 ..	51A357
	54H705; 55H805; 56H505 .....	72-35-06	Insp/Check-02 ..	51A750
HPC front drum rotor .....	50H859; 50H859-001; 51H426-01; 52H559-01; 52H926-01; 53H676-01; 53H976-01; 54H626-01; 54H816-01; 55H106-01;.	72-35-07	Insp/Check-02 ..	51A357
	53H406-01; 55H206-01; 56H306-01 .....	72-35-07	Insp/Check-02 ..	51A750
HPC rear drum rotor .....	50H936; 50H936-002; 53H923-01; 53H923-001 .....	72-35-08	Insp/Check-02 ..	51A357
	53H973-01; 53H973-001; 54H803-01; 54H803-001; 56H013-01.	72-35-10	Insp/Check-02 ..	51A357
	55H722-01; 55H410-01; 57H010-01; 57H210-01; 57H610-01.	72-35-10	Insp/Check-02 ..	51A750
HPC 15th disk .....	55H615; 56H015; 57H715 .....	72-35-92	Insp/Check-02 ..	51A750
HPT 1st stage airseal .....	50L663; 50L959; 53L003 .....	72-52-19	Insp/Check-02 ..	51A750
HPT first stage hub .....	50L501; 51L601; 51L201; 52L401; 52L301 (51L901 Detail); 51L201-021 (51L201 Detail); 50L761 (52L201 Detail).	72-52-05	Insp/Check-02 ..	51A357
	52L901 (53L001 Detail); 52L701 (52L601 Detail); 53L121 (53L601 Detail); 53L021 (53L101 Detail).	72-52-05	Insp/Check-02 ..	51A750

Nomenclature (description)	Part No.	CIR manual section	CIR manual inspection	CIR manual
HPT 2nd stage airseal .....	50L926 (50L925 Detail)*; 50L976 (50L925 Detail)*; 50L960 (50L961 Detail)*; 50L993 (50L994 Detail)*.	72-52-22	Insp/Check-02 ..	51A750
HPT second stage hub .....	50L602-021 (50L602 Detail); 50L602-022 (50L602 Detail); 50L602-023 (50L602 Detail); 50L602-024 (50L602 Detail); 50L602-001; 50L902-021 (50L902 Detail); 50L902-022 (50L902 Detail); 52L002-021 (52L002 Detail); 52L402 (52L002 Detail); 52L802 (52L002 Detail); 53L602 (52L002 Detail); 52L702 (52L102 Detail); 53L232 (53L202 Detail); 53L332 (53L402 Detail); 53L042 (53L702 Detail).	72-52-06	Insp/Check-02 ..	51A357
		72-52-06	Insp/Check-02 ..	51A750

\* These parts must be inspected at the Detail level (metering plugs and Dampers must be removed). Assembly P/N is listed only for reference and consistency with PW Manuals.

Except as noted, all parts may be inspected at any part number level of disassembly listed in the Table above.

(2) For the purposes of these mandatory inspections, piece-part opportunity means:

(i) The part is considered completely disassembled when accomplished in accordance with the disassembly instructions in the manufacturer's engine manuals to either the detail or assembly level part numbers listed in the Table above (except as noted); and

(ii) The part has accumulated more than 100 cycles in service since the last piece-part opportunity inspection, provided that the part was not damaged or related to the cause for its removal from the engine."

(b) Except as provided in paragraph (c) of this AD, and notwithstanding contrary provisions in section 43.16 of the Federal Aviation Regulations (14 CFR 43.16), these mandatory inspections shall be performed only in accordance with the Time Limits Section of the manufacturer's EMs.

**Alternative Method 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 Engine Certification Office (ECO). Operators shall submit their requests through an appropriate FAA Principal Maintenance Inspector (PMI), who may add comments and then send it to the ECO.

**Note 2:** Information concerning the existence of approved alternative methods of compliance with this airworthiness directive, if any, may be obtained from the ECO.

**Ferry Flights**

(d) 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.

**Continuous Airworthiness Maintenance Program**

(e) FAA-certificated air carriers that have an approved continuous airworthiness maintenance program in accordance with the record keeping requirement of § 121.369(c) of the Federal Aviation Regulations (14 CFR 121.369(c)) of this chapter must maintain records of the mandatory inspections that result from revising the Time Limits Section of the EMs and the air carrier's continuous

airworthiness program. Alternately, certificated air carriers may establish an approved system of record retention that provides a method for preservation and retrieval of the maintenance records that include the inspections resulting from this AD, and include the policy and procedures for implementing this alternate method in the air carrier's maintenance manual required by § 121.369(c) of the Federal Aviation Regulations (14 CFR 121.369(c)); however, the alternate system must be accepted by the appropriate PMI and require the maintenance records be maintained either indefinitely or until the work is repeated. Records of the piece-part inspections are not required under § 121.380(a)(2)(vi) of the Federal Aviation Regulations (14 CFR 121.380(a)(2)(vi)). All other operators must maintain the records of mandatory inspections required by the applicable regulations governing their operations.

**Note 3:** The requirements of this AD have been met when the engine manual changes are made and air carriers have modified their continuous airworthiness maintenance plans to reflect the requirements in the EMs.

Issued in Burlington, Massachusetts, on September 30, 1999.

**David A. Downey,**

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**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**

**Federal Aviation Administration**

**14 CFR Part 39**

[Docket No. 99-NE-49-AD]

RIN 2120-AA64

**Airworthiness Directives; General Electric Company CF34 Series Turbofan Engines**

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

**ACTION:** Notice of proposed rulemaking (NPRM).

**SUMMARY:** This proposal would require revisions to the Time Limits Section

(TLS) of the General Electric Company CF34 Series Turbofan Engine Manual to include required enhanced inspection of selected critical life-limited parts at each piece-part exposure. This action would add additional critical life-limited parts at each piece-part exposure. This proposal would also require an air carrier's approved continuous airworthiness maintenance program to incorporate these inspection procedures. Air carriers with an approved continuous airworthiness maintenance program would be allowed to either maintain the records showing the current status of the inspections using the record keeping system specified in the air carrier's maintenance manual, or establish an acceptable alternate method of record keeping. This proposal is prompted by a Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) study of in-service events involving uncontained failures of critical rotating engine parts that indicated the need for improved inspections. The improved inspections are needed to identify those critical rotating parts with conditions, which if allowed to continue in service, could result in uncontained failures. The actions specified by this proposed airworthiness directive (AD) are intended to prevent critical life-limited rotating engine part failure, which could result in an uncontained engine failure and damage to the airplane.

**DATES:** Comments must be received by December 6, 1999.

**ADDRESSES:** Submit comments in triplicate to the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), New England Region, Office of the Regional Counsel, Attention: Rules Docket No. 99-NE-49-AD, 12 New England Executive Park, Burlington, MA 01803-5299. Comments may also be sent via the Internet using the following address: "9-ane-adcomment@faa.gov". Comments sent via the Internet must contain the docket number in the subject line. Comments may be inspected at this location