

Administrative Committee, is available on GPO Access, a service of the Government Printing Office (44 U.S.C. 4101).

5. Revise § 11.7 to read as follows:

§ 11.7 Federal Register Index.

The annual subscription price for the monthly **Federal Register** Index, purchased separately, in paper form, is \$28.

6. Revise § 11.8 to read as follows:

§ 11.8 LSA (List of CFR Sections Affected).

The annual subscription price for the monthly LSA (List of CFR Sections Affected), purchased separately, in paper form, is \$31.

John W. Carlin,

Chairman.

Michael F. DiMario,

Member.

Rosemary Hart,

Member.

Janet Reno,

Attorney General.

John W. Carlin,

Archivist of the United States.

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Aviation Administration

14 CFR Part 39

[Docket No. 98-ANE-64-AD; Amendment 39-11592; AD 2000-04-10]

RIN 2120-AA64

Airworthiness Directives; Hoffmann Propeller Co. HO27() and HO4/27 Series Propellers

AGENCY: Federal Aviation Administration, DOT.

ACTION: Final rule; request for comments.

SUMMARY: This amendment adopts a new airworthiness directive (AD) that is applicable to Hoffmann Propeller Co. HO27() and HO4/27 series propellers. This action requires installing improved propeller mounting bolts to a higher torque value, operating the airplane for one flight, checking the torque, and retorquing, as required, to the correct torque value. This amendment is prompted by reports of insufficient torque of propeller mounting bolts due to operating conditions, loads, and environmental conditions such as humidity and temperature. The actions specified in this AD are intended to prevent propeller mounting bolt failure,

which could result in propeller separation and loss of control of the airplane.

DATES: Effective March 9, 2000.

Comments for inclusion in the Rules Docket must be received on or before April 24, 2000.

ADDRESSES: Submit comments to the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), New England Region, Office of the Regional Counsel, Attention: Rules Docket No. 98-ANE-64-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.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Frank Walsh, Aerospace Engineer, Boston Aircraft Certification Office, FAA, Engine and Propeller Directorate, 12 New England Executive Park, Burlington, MA 01803-5299; telephone (781) 238-7158, fax (781) 238-7199.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Luftfahrt-Bundesamt (LBA), which is the airworthiness authority for Germany, notified the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) that an unsafe condition may exist on Hoffmann Propeller Co. HO27() and HO4/27 series propellers. The LBA advises that they have received reports of insufficient torque of propeller mounting bolts due to poor maintenance and operating conditions, loads, and environmental conditions such as humidity and temperature. This condition, if not corrected, could result in propeller mounting bolt failure, which could result in propeller separation and loss of control of the airplane.

Bilateral Airworthiness Agreement

This propeller model is manufactured in Germany 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 LBA has kept the FAA informed of the situation described above. The FAA has examined the findings of the LBA, 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.

Required Actions

Since an unsafe condition has been identified that is likely to exist or develop on other propellers of the same type design registered in the United

States, the proposed AD would require installing improved propeller mounting bolts to the correct torque value. This AD would require the installation within 10 hours time-in-service, or 7 days after the effective date of this AD, whichever occurs first. After operating the airplane for one flight, check the torque, and retorquing to the correct torque value, as required. The LBA classified this action as mandatory and issued airworthiness directive (AD) 1998-322/2, dated August 6, 1998, in order to assure the airworthiness of these propellers in Germany.

Immediate Adoption

Since a situation exists that requires the immediate adoption of this regulation, it is found that notice and opportunity for prior public comment hereon are impracticable, and that good cause exists for making this amendment effective in less than 30 days.

Comments Invited

Although this action is in the form of a final rule that involves requirements affecting flight safety and, thus, was not preceded by notice and an opportunity for public comment, comments are invited on this rule. Interested persons are invited to comment on this rule by submitting such written data, views, or arguments as they may desire. Communications should identify the Rules Docket number and be submitted to the address specified under the caption **ADDRESSES**. All communications received on or before the closing date for comments will be considered, and this rule may be amended in light of the comments received. Factual information that supports the commenter's ideas and suggestions is extremely helpful in evaluating the effectiveness of the AD action and determining whether additional rulemaking action would be needed.

Comments are specifically invited on the overall regulatory, economic, environmental, and energy aspects of the rule that might suggest a need to modify the 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 that summarizes each FAA-public contact concerned with the substance of this AD 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-64-AD." The

