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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Rural Utilities Service

7 CFR Part 1710

General and Pre-Loan Policies and Procedures Common to Insured and Guaranteed Electric Loans

AGENCY: Rural Utilities Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of confirmation of effective date.

SUMMARY: The Rural Utilities Service (RUS) hereby gives notice that no adverse comments were received regarding the direct final rule on the General and Pre-Loan Policies and Procedures Common to Insured and Guaranteed Electric Loans, published in the **Federal Register**, June 22, 1999, at 64 FR 33176, and confirms the effective date of the direct final rule.

DATE: The direct final rule, which published at 64 FR 33176, was effective August 6, 1999.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Blaine D. Stockton, Jr., Assistant Administrator, Electric Program, Rural Utilities Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Stop 1560, 1400 Independence Ave., SW., Washington, DC 20250–1560. Telephone: (202) 720–9545. FAX: (202) 690–0717. E-mail: bstockto@rus.usda.gov.

Confirmation of Effective Date

This is to confirm the effective date of the direct final rule, 7 CFR Part 1710, General and Pre-Loan Policies and Procedures Common to Insured and Guaranteed Electric Loans, published June 22, 1999, at 64 FR 33176, and is to advise that RUS did not receive any written adverse comments and no written notice of intent to submit adverse comments on this rule.

Dated: March 9, 2000.

Christopher A. McLean,

Acting Administrator, Rural Utilities Service.

[FR Doc. 00–6388 Filed 3–15–00; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Aviation Administration

14 CFR Part 39

[Docket No. 2000–NE–02–AD; Amendment 39–11622; AD 2000–05–12]

RIN 2120–AA64

Airworthiness Directives; Rolls-Royce plc RB211–524 Series Turbofan Engines

AGENCY: Federal Aviation Administration, DOT.

ACTION: Final rule; request for comments.

SUMMARY: This amendment adopts a new airworthiness directive (AD) that is applicable to certain Rolls-Royce plc RB211–524 series turbofan engines. This action requires initial and repetitive ultrasonic inspections for cracks in fan blade dovetail roots, and, if necessary, replacement with serviceable parts. This action also provides the options of installing improved design fan blades or reworking current fan blades to the improved configuration as terminating action for the inspections. This amendment is prompted by reports of fan blade failures due to dovetail root cracks. The actions specified in this AD are intended to prevent possible multiple fan blade failures, which could result in an uncontained engine failure and damage to the aircraft.

DATES: Effective March 31, 2000.

The incorporation by reference of certain publications listed in the regulations is approved by the Director of the Federal Register as of March 31, 2000.

Comments for inclusion in the Rules Docket must be received on or before May 15, 2000.

ADDRESSES: Submit comments to the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), New England Region, Office of the Regional Counsel, Attention: Rules Docket No. 2000–NE–02–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.

The service information referenced in this AD may be obtained from Rolls-Royce plc, PO Box 31, Derby, England; telephone: International Access Code 011, Country Code 44, 1332–249428, fax International Access Code 011, Country Code 44, 1332–249223. This information may be examined at the FAA, New England Region, Office of the Regional Counsel, 12 New England Executive Park, Burlington, MA; or at the Office of the Federal Register, 800 North Capitol Street, NW, suite 700, Washington, DC.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: James Lawrence, Aerospace Engineer, Engine Certification Office, FAA, Engine and Propeller Directorate, 12 New England Executive Park, Burlington, MA 01803–5299; telephone 781–238–7176, fax 781–238–7199.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Civil Aviation Authority (CAA), which is the airworthiness authority for the United Kingdom (UK), recently notified the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) that an unsafe condition may exist on certain Rolls-Royce plc (R–R) RB211–524 series turbofan engines. The CAA received reports of three fan blade failures to date. Subsequent inspections of the dovetail root area on other fan blades revealed the existence of dovetail root cracks in the same region as the failed blades. This condition, if not corrected, could result in possible multiple fan blade failures, which could result in an uncontained engine failure and damage to the aircraft

Service Information

R–R has issued Mandatory Service Bulletin (SB) No. RB.211–72–C818, Revision 2, dated October 8, 1999, that specifies procedures for ultrasonic inspections for cracks in fan blade dovetail roots and provides rejection criteria. The CAA classified this SB as mandatory and issued airworthiness directive (AD) 007–10–99 in order to assure the airworthiness of these engines in the UK.

In addition, R–R has issued SB RB.211–72–C891, dated February 2, 2000, that describes procedures for installing improved design fan blades or