

Docket at the location provided under the caption **ADDRESSES**.

### List of Subjects in 14 CFR Part 39

Air transportation, Aircraft, Aviation safety, Incorporation by reference, Safety.

### Adoption of the Amendment

Accordingly, pursuant to the authority delegated to me by the Administrator, the Federal Aviation Administration amends 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:

#### 2000–24–16 McDonnell Douglas:

Amendment 39–12023. Docket 2000–NM–37–AD.

**Applicability:** Model MD–11 series airplanes, as listed in Boeing Alert Service Bulletin MD11–24A144, dated May 2, 2000; 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 fire and smoke in certain wire bundles that are routed to and from the main avionics compartment or center accessory compartment, accomplish the following:

#### Inspection and Replacement, If Necessary

(a) Within 6 months after the effective date of this AD, perform a one-time general visual inspection of the one phase remote control circuit breaker (RCCB) in the main avionics compartment and center accessory compartment to determine the part number and serial number (identified in Table 2 of the Accomplishment Instructions of the service bulletin), in accordance with Boeing Alert Service Bulletin MD11–24A144, dated May 2, 2000.

**Note 2:** For the purposes of this AD, a general visual inspection is defined as “A

visual examination of an interior or exterior area, installation, or assembly to detect obvious damage, failure, or irregularity. This level of inspection is made under normally available lighting conditions such as daylight, hangar lighting, flashlight, or drop-light, and may require removal or opening of access panels or doors. Stands, ladders, or platforms may be required to gain proximity to the area being checked.”

(1) If any RCCB has a part number listed in Table 2 of the Accomplishment Instructions of the service bulletin and the corresponding serial number is NOT identified in that table, no further action is required by this AD.

(2) If any RCCB has a part number listed in Table 2 of the Accomplishment Instructions of the service bulletin and the corresponding serial number is identified in that table, before further flight, replace the RCCB with a RCCB having the same part number with a serial number that is NOT identified in Table 2, in accordance 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, Los Angeles Aircraft Certification Office (ACO), FAA. Operators shall submit their requests through an appropriate FAA Principal Maintenance Inspector, who may add comments and then send it to the Manager, Los Angeles ACO.

**Note 3:** Information concerning the existence of approved alternative methods of compliance with this AD, if any, may be obtained from the Los Angeles ACO.

#### Special Flight Permit

(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.

#### Incorporation by Reference

(d) The actions shall be done in accordance with Boeing Alert Service Bulletin MD11–24A144, dated May 2, 2000. This incorporation by reference was approved by the Director of the Federal Register in accordance with 5 U.S.C. 552(a) and 1 CFR part 51. Copies may be obtained from Boeing Commercial Aircraft Group, Long Beach Division, 3855 Lakewood Boulevard, Long Beach, California 90846, Attention: Technical Publications Business Administration, Dept. C1–L51 (2–60). Copies may be inspected at the FAA, Transport Airplane Directorate, 1601 Lind Avenue, SW., Renton, Washington; or at the FAA, Los Angeles Aircraft Certification Office, 3960 Paramount Boulevard, Lakewood, California; or at the Office of the Federal Register, 800 North Capitol Street, NW., suite 700, Washington, DC.

#### Effective Date

(e) This amendment becomes effective on January 8, 2001.

Issued in Renton, Washington, on November 22, 2000.

**Donald L. Riggan,**

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

[FR Doc. 00–30441 Filed 12–1–00; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4910–13–P**

## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

### Federal Aviation Administration

#### 14 CFR Part 39

[Docket No. 2000–NM–38–AD; Amendment 39–12024; AD 2000–24–17]

RIN 2120–AA64

### Airworthiness Directives; McDonnell Douglas Model MD–11 Series Airplanes

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

**ACTION:** Final rule.

**SUMMARY:** This amendment supersedes an existing airworthiness directive (AD), applicable to certain McDonnell Douglas Model MD–11 series airplanes, that currently requires deactivation of the forward and center cargo control units (CCU). This amendment requires, among other actions, a general visual inspection to verify that all six external connectors of suspect CCU's have a certain part number stamped on the connector bodies on all CCU assemblies, and follow-on actions, which would constitute terminating action for the deactivation requirements. The actions specified by this amendment are intended to prevent overheating of the electrical pins inside the CCU's and subsequent release of hot gases and flames, which could result in smoke and fire in the cargo compartment.

**DATES:** Effective January 8, 2001.

The incorporation by reference of certain publications listed in the regulations is approved by the Director of the Federal Register as of January 8, 2001.

**ADDRESSES:** The service information referenced in this AD may be obtained from Boeing Commercial Aircraft Group, Long Beach Division, 3855 Lakewood Boulevard, Long Beach, California 90846, Attention: Technical Publications Business Administration, Dept. C1–L51 (2–60). This information may be examined at the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), Transport Airplane Directorate, Rules Docket, 1601 Lind Avenue, SW., Renton, Washington; or at the FAA, Los Angeles Aircraft Certification Office, 3960 Paramount Boulevard, Lakewood,

California; or at the Office of the Federal Register, 800 North Capitol Street, NW., suite 700, Washington, DC.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Brett Portwood, Aerospace Engineer, Systems and Equipment Branch, ANM-130L, FAA, Los Angeles Aircraft Certification Office, 3960 Paramount Boulevard, Lakewood, California 90712-4137; telephone (562) 627-5350; fax (562) 627-5210.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** A proposal to amend part 39 of the Federal Aviation Regulations (14 CFR part 39) by superseding AD 2000-08-03, amendment 39-11689 (65 FR 21134, April 20, 2000), which is applicable to certain McDonnell Douglas Model MD-11 series airplanes, was published in the *Federal Register* on July 27, 2000 (65 FR 46223). The action proposed to continue to require deactivation of the forward and center cargo control units (CCU). The action also proposed to require, among other actions, a general visual inspection to verify that all six external connectors of suspect CCU's have a certain part number stamped on the connector bodies on all CCU assemblies, and follow-on actions, which would constitute terminating action for the deactivation requirements.

#### Comments

Interested persons have been afforded an opportunity to participate in the making of this amendment. No comments were submitted in response to the proposal or the FAA's determination of the cost to the public.

#### Conclusion

The FAA has determined that air safety and the public interest require the adoption of the rule as proposed.

#### Cost Impact

There are approximately 104 Model MD-11 series airplanes of the affected design in the worldwide fleet. The FAA estimates that 20 airplanes of U.S. registry will be affected by this AD.

The actions that are currently required by AD 2000-08-03 take approximately 1 work hour per airplane to accomplish, at an average labor rate of \$60 per work hour. Based on these figures, the cost impact of the currently

required actions on U.S. operators is estimated to be \$1,200, or \$60 per airplane.

The new inspection that is required in this AD action will take approximately 1 work hour per airplane to accomplish, at an average labor rate of \$60 per work hour. Based on these figures, the cost impact of the inspection required by this AD on U.S. operators is estimated to be \$1,200, or \$60 per airplane.

Should an operator be required to accomplish the new modification that is required in this AD action, it will take approximately 1 work hour per airplane to accomplish, at an average labor rate of \$60 per work hour. Required parts will be supplied by the manufacturer of the CCU at no cost to the operators. Based on these figures, the cost impact of the modification required by this AD on U.S. operators is estimated to be \$60 per airplane.

Should an operator be required to accomplish the new replacement that is required in this AD action, it will take approximately 1 work hour per airplane to accomplish, at an average labor rate of \$60 per work hour. Required parts will be supplied by the manufacturer of the CCU at no cost to the operators. Based on these figures, the cost impact of the replacement required by this AD on U.S. operators is estimated to be \$60 per airplane.

The cost impact figures discussed above are based on assumptions that no operator has yet accomplished any of the requirements of this AD action, and that no operator would accomplish those actions in the future if this AD were not adopted. The cost impact figures discussed in AD rulemaking actions represent only the time necessary to perform the specific actions actually required by the AD. These figures typically do not include incidental costs, such as the time required to gain access and close up, planning time, or time necessitated by other administrative actions.

#### Regulatory Impact

The regulations adopted herein will not have a substantial direct effect 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, it is determined that this final rule does not have federalism implications under Executive Order 13132.

For the reasons discussed above, I certify that this action (1) is not a "significant regulatory action" under Executive Order 12866; (2) is not a "significant rule" under DOT Regulatory Policies and Procedures (44 FR 11034, February 26, 1979); and (3) 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 final evaluation has been prepared for this action and it is contained in the Rules Docket. A copy of it may be obtained from the Rules Docket at the location provided under the caption **ADDRESSES**.

#### List of Subjects in 14 CFR Part 39

Air transportation, Aircraft, Aviation safety, Incorporation by reference, Safety.

#### Adoption of the Amendment

Accordingly, pursuant to the authority delegated to me by the Administrator, the Federal Aviation Administration amends 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 39-11689 (65 FR 21134, April 20, 2000), and by adding a new airworthiness directive (AD), amendment 39-12024, to read as follows:

#### 2000-24-17 McDonnell Douglas:

Amendment 39-12024. Docket 2000-NM-38-AD. Supersedes AD 2000-08-03, Amendment 39-11689.

*Applicability:* Model MD-11 series airplanes, certificated in any category, having the serial numbers listed below.

**Group 1 Airplanes**

48565	48566	48533	48549	48470	48406
48504	48602	48603	48571	48439	48605
48572	48471	48573	48600	48601	48633
48513	48574	48575	48542	48543	48576
48415	48631	48544	48632	48577	48545
48578	48546	48743	48744	48747	48748
48745	48746	48749	48579	48766	48768
48767	48769	48754	48623	48770	48753
48773	48774	48755	48758	<sup>1</sup> 48775-48779	
48624	48756	48780	48532		

<sup>1</sup>Inclusive.

**Group 2 Airplanes:**

48555	48556	48581	48630	48557	48539
48558	48559	48616	48560	48617	48618
48561	48629	48562	48563	48757	48540
48564	48634	48541	48798	<sup>1</sup> 48781-48792	
48794	48799	48801	48800	<sup>1</sup> 48802-48806	

<sup>1</sup>Inclusive.

**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 (f) 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 overheating of the electrical pins inside the cargo control units (CCU) and subsequent release of hot gases and flames, which could result in smoke and fire in the cargo compartment, accomplish the following:

**Restatement of Requirements of AD 2000-05-01**

**Deactivation**

(a) For Group 1 airplanes having serial numbers other than that identified in paragraph (c) of this AD: Within 15 days after March 20, 2000 (the effective date of AD 2000-05-01, amendment 39-11610), deactivate the forward and center CCU's in accordance with the following procedures:

(1) Remove the access panel to the forward cargo compartment CCU circuit breaker panel located at fuselage station 1009.300 (right side looking aft). Pull and collar the following circuit breakers:

B1-506	B1-489	B1-488	B1-487	B1-486
B1-485	B1-480	B1-481	B1-498	B1-482
B1-500	B1-495	B1-499	B1-490	

(2) Remove the access panel to the center cargo compartment CCU circuit breaker panel located at fuselage station 1701.000 (right side looking aft). Pull and collar the following circuit breakers:

B1-552	B1-762	B1-761	B1-760	B1-759
B1-758	B1-518	B1-519	B1-751	B1-520
B1-753	B1-764	B1-752	B1-763	

(b) For Group 2 airplanes having serial numbers other than that identified in paragraph (c) of this AD: Within 15 days after March 20, 2000, deactivate the forward and center CCU's in accordance with the following procedures:

(1) Remove the access panel to the forward cargo compartment CCU circuit breaker panel located at fuselage station 1009.300 (right side looking aft). Pull and collar the following circuit breakers:

B1-506	B1-489	B1-488	B1-487	B1-486
B1-485	B1-480	B1-481	B1-498	B1-482
B1-500	B1-495	B1-499	B1-490	

(2) Remove the access panel to the center cargo compartment CCU circuit breaker panel located at fuselage station 1701.000 (right side looking aft). Pull and collar the following circuit breakers:

B1-552	B1-762	B1-761	B1-760	B1-759
B1-758	B1-518	B1-519	B1-751	B1-520
B1-753	B1-764	B1-752		

**Restatement of Requirements of AD 2000-08-03**

**Deactivation**

(c) For Group 1 airplane, serial number 48769, and for Group 2 airplane, serial number 48563: Within 15 days after May 5, 2000 (the effective date of AD 2000-08-03, amendment 39-11689), accomplish the actions specified in either paragraph (a) or (b) of this AD, as applicable.

**New Requirements of This AD**

**Inspection and Modification/Reidentification, If Necessary**

(d) For Group 1 and Group 2 airplanes: Within 90 days after the effective date of this AD, perform an inspection to determine the part number of the CCU's.

(1) If both CCU's have part number (P/N) 462650-21, 462650-22, or 462650-23, the deactivation specified in paragraphs (a), (b),

and (c) of this AD is no longer required, and the CCU's may be reactivated.

(2) If any CCU has a part number (P/N) other than 462650-21, 462650-22, or 462650-23, within 90 days after the effective date of this AD, perform a general visual inspection to verify that all six external connectors of the CCU have P/N M83723/71XXXXXX or P/N M83723/72XXXXXX stamped on the connector bodies on all TRW Aeronautical Systems, Lucas Aerospace, CCU assemblies, in accordance with Boeing Alert

Service Bulletin MD11-25A253, dated March 10, 2000.

**Note 2:** McDonnell Douglas Service Bulletin MD11-25A253, dated March 10, 2000, references TRW Aeronautical Systems, Lucas Aerospace Alert Service Bulletin 462650-25-A01, dated March 10, 2000, as an additional source of service information to accomplish the inspection described above and corrective actions described below.

(i) If any connector has a P/N other than M83723/71XXXXXX or M83723/72XXXXXX, prior to further flight, replace the CCU with a spare CCU from the operator's stock that has one of the following P/N: 462650-21, 462650-22, or 462650-23. Following accomplishment of the replacement, the deactivation specified in paragraphs (a), (b), and (c) of this AD is no longer required, and the CCU's may be reactivated.

(ii) If any connector has P/N M83723/71XXXXXX or P/N M83723/72XXXXXX, prior to further flight, modify the rear cover (40) of the CCU assembly (including aligning the center hole of the insulator with the center hole on the rear cover (40), and ensuring that the top edge of the insulator is parallel to the top edge of the rear cover), and reidentify the CCU, in accordance with the service bulletin. Following accomplishment of the modification, the deactivation specified in paragraphs (a), (b), and (c) of this AD is no longer required, and the CCU's may be reactivated.

#### Spares

(e) As of the effective date of this AD, no person shall install on any airplane any part (identified under "Key Word"), having a "Spare Part No." listed in paragraph 2.D., "Parts Necessary to Change Spares," of Boeing Alert Service Bulletin MD11-25A253, dated March 10, 2000.

#### Alternative Methods of Compliance

(f) 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, Los Angeles Aircraft Certification Office (ACO), FAA. Operators shall submit their requests through an appropriate FAA Principal Maintenance Inspector, who may add comments and then send it to the Manager, Los Angeles ACO.

**Note 3:** Information concerning the existence of approved alternative methods of compliance with this AD, if any, may be obtained from the Los Angeles ACO.

#### Special Flight Permits

(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.

#### Incorporation by Reference

(h) The actions required by paragraphs (d)(2), (d)(2)(i) and (d)(2)(ii) shall be done in accordance with Boeing Alert Service Bulletin MD11-25A253, dated March 10, 2000. This incorporation by reference was approved by the Director of the Federal Register in accordance with 5 U.S.C. 552(a)

and 1 CFR part 51. Copies may be obtained from Boeing Commercial Aircraft Group, Long Beach Division, 3855 Lakewood Boulevard, Long Beach, California 90846, Attention: Technical Publications Business Administration, Dept. C1-L51 (2-60). Copies may be inspected at the FAA, Transport Airplane Directorate, 1601 Lind Avenue, SW., Renton, Washington; or at the FAA, Los Angeles Aircraft Certification Office, 3960 Paramount Boulevard, Lakewood, California; or at the Office of the Federal Register, 800 North Capitol Street, NW., suite 700, Washington, DC.

#### Effective Date

(i) This amendment becomes effective on January 8, 2001.

Issued in Renton, Washington, on November 22, 2000.

**Donald L. Riggan,**

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

[FR Doc. 00-30442 Filed 12-1-00; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4910-13-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

### Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

#### 18 CFR Part 284

[Docket No. PL00-1-000]

#### Dialog Concerning Natural Gas Transportation Policies Needed to Facilitate Development of Competitive Natural Gas Markets

November 22, 2000.

**AGENCY:** Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, DOE.

**ACTION:** Final rule; notice of staff conference.

**SUMMARY:** In Order No. 637, issued on February 9, 2000, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (Commission) revised its regulatory policies, amended its regulations, and established new procedures to enhance the competitiveness and efficiency of markets for the transportation of natural gas in interstate commerce. This document establishes the second of three public staff conferences in a dialog between the industry and Commission staff. This conference focuses on affiliate issues.

**DATES:** The conference will take place on January 31, 2001, starting at 1:00 p.m. Comments and requests to participate are due by January 5, 2001.

**ADDRESSES:** Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20426.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Robert A. Flanders, Office of Markets,

Tariffs and Rates, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20426. (202) 208-2084, e-mail: Robert.Flanders@ferc.fed.us.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Take notice that on January 31, 2001, the Staff of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission will hold a public conference, as contemplated by Order No. 637,<sup>1</sup> to discuss how the changes in the natural gas market affect the way in which the Commission should regulate transportation transactions between pipelines and their affiliates, as well as between pipeline capacity holders and their affiliates, capacity managers and agents. The conference will begin at 1:00 p.m. in the Commission's Meeting Room at 888 First Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. All interested persons are invited to attend.

This conference is part of the continuing process established in Order No. 637,<sup>2</sup> to enable the industry and market participants to discuss with staff, and each other, issues relating to the development of Commission policy and regulatory responses so that Commission staff can develop "a better understanding of industry trends and regulatory changes that better meet the changing character of the industry."<sup>3</sup> This is the second of three conferences to discuss these issues.

As stated in Order No. 637, this conference will focus on "whether the regulatory policy with respect to pipeline affiliates and non-affiliates, as well as asset managers and agents, should be revised to reflect the changing nature of the gas market" and "whether there needs to be revisions to the regulations relating to pipeline affiliates."<sup>4</sup> Currently, the relationship between a pipeline and its marketing affiliate(s) is governed by the standards of conduct.<sup>5</sup> Market participants are also able to monitor pipeline/marketing affiliate relationships and capacity holder/affiliate relationships by obtaining specific information through various posting and reporting requirements. This conference is intended to open a dialog concerning the market consequences of transactions

<sup>1</sup> Regulation of Short-Term Natural Gas Transportation Services, Order No. 637, Final Rule, 65 FR 10156 (Feb. 25, 2000), FERC Stats. & Regs. Regulations Preambles [Jan. 2000-June 2000] ¶31,091 (Feb. 9, 2000), Order No. 637-A, Order on Rehearing, 65 FR 35705 (June 5, 2000) FERC Stats. & Regs. ¶31,099 (May 19, 2000).

<sup>2</sup> Id., FERC Stats. & Regs. ¶31,091 at pp. 31,268-69.

<sup>3</sup> Id., FERC Stats. & Regs. ¶31,091 at p. 31,268.

<sup>4</sup> Id., FERC Stats. & Regs. ¶31,091 at pp. 31,268-69.

<sup>5</sup> 18 CFR Part 161 (2000).