

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 (d) 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 separation of the cylinder head lugs, which could prevent the main landing gear (MLG) from extending and result in a partial gear-up landing, do the following:

#### Inspection

(a) Perform an eddy current inspection of the actuator cylinder head lugs for cracking or corrosion per Raytheon Service Bulletin SB 32-3391, dated August 2000, at the time specified in paragraph (a)(1), (a)(2), (a)(3), or (a)(4) of this AD, as applicable.

(1) For actuator cylinder heads that have 3,000 or less total landings as of the effective date of this AD: Perform the eddy current inspection within 24 months after the effective date of this AD.

(2) For actuator cylinder heads that have 3,001 to 4,000 total landings as of the effective date of this AD: Perform the eddy current inspection within 6 months after the effective date of this AD.

(3) For actuator cylinder heads that have been in service for more than 7 years as of the effective date of this AD: Perform the eddy current inspection within 6 months of the effective date of this AD.

(4) For actuator cylinder heads that have 4,001 or more total landings as of the effective date of this AD: Perform the eddy current inspection within 10 landings after the effective date of this AD.

#### If No Cracking or Corrosion

(b) If no cracking or corrosion is found during the inspection required by paragraph (a) of this AD, before further flight, accomplish the follow-on actions (e.g., "vibro-etching" the MLG actuator data plate, painting a blue stripe on the actuator cylinder head to indicate 1/32 inch oversize bushings, replacing bushings, and applying corrosion protection to the lug bores), per Raytheon Service Bulletin SB 32-3391, dated August 2000.

#### If Any Cracking or Corrosion

(c) If any cracking or corrosion is found during the inspection required by paragraph (a) of this AD, before further flight, accomplish either of the actions specified in paragraph (c)(1) or (c)(2) of this AD, per Raytheon Service Bulletin SB 32-3391, dated August 2000.

(1) Replace the actuator of the MLG with a new or serviceable actuator, or

(2) Replace the actuator cylinder head with a new cylinder head.

**Note 2:** Raytheon Service Bulletin SB 32-3391, dated August 2000, references Precision Hydraulics Cylinder Maintenance

Manual (CMM) 32-30-1105 as an additional source of service information.

#### Alternative Methods of Compliance

(d) 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, Wichita 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, Wichita ACO.

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

#### Special Flight Permit

(e) 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.

Issued in Renton, Washington, on May 30, 2001.

**Vi L. Lipski,**

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

[FR Doc. 01-14044 Filed 6-4-01; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4910-13-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

### Federal Aviation Administration

#### 14 CFR Part 39

[Docket No. 2000-NM-220-AD]

RIN 2120-AA64

#### Airworthiness Directives; Boeing Model 747 Series Airplanes

**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 all Boeing Model 747 series airplanes, that currently requires a one-time inspection of the fuselage skin adjacent to the drag splice fitting to detect cracking, and follow-on actions, if necessary. This action would mandate new repetitive inspections for cracking of the fuselage skin adjacent to the drag splice fitting. This proposal is prompted by reports of fatigue cracking in the fuselage skin and adjacent structure. The actions specified by the proposed AD are intended to detect and correct such cracking, which could result in reduced structural integrity of the fuselage, and consequent rapid depressurization of the airplane.

**DATES:** Comments must be received by July 20, 2001.

**ADDRESSES:** Submit comments in triplicate to the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), Transport Airplane Directorate, ANM-114, Attention: Rules Docket No. 2000-NM-220-AD, 1601 Lind Avenue, SW., Renton, Washington 98055-4056. Comments may be inspected at this location between 9:00 a.m. and 3 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays. Comments may be submitted via fax to (425) 227-1232. Comments may also be sent via the Internet using the following address: 9-anm-nprmcomment@faa.gov. Comments sent via fax or the Internet must contain "Docket No. 2000-NM-220-AD" in the subject line and need not be submitted in triplicate. Comments sent via the Internet as attached electronic files must be formatted in Microsoft Word 97 for Windows or ASCII text.

The service information referenced in the proposed rule may be obtained from Boeing Commercial Airplane Group, P.O. Box 3707, Seattle, Washington 98124-2207. This information may be examined at the FAA, Transport Airplane Directorate, 1601 Lind Avenue, SW., Renton, Washington.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Rick Kawaguchi, Aerospace Engineer, Airframe Branch, ANM-120S, FAA, Seattle Aircraft Certification Office, 1601 Lind Avenue, SW., Renton, Washington 98055-4056; telephone (425) 227-1153; fax (425) 227-1181.

#### 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 action may be changed in light of the comments received.

- Submit comments using the following format:
- Organize comments issue-by-issue. For example, discuss a request to change the compliance time and a request to change the service bulletin reference as two separate issues.
- For each issue, state what specific change to the proposed AD is being requested.
- Include justification (e.g., reasons or data) for each request.

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 action must submit a self-addressed, stamped postcard on which the following statement is made: "Comments to Docket Number 2000-NM-220-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. 2000-NM-220-AD, 1601 Lind Avenue, SW., Renton, Washington 98055-4056.

#### Discussion

On July 3, 2000, the FAA issued AD 2000-14-04, amendment 39-11813 (65 FR 43219, July 13, 2000), applicable to all Boeing Model 747 series airplanes, to require a one-time inspection of the fuselage skin adjacent to the drag splice fitting to detect cracking, and follow-on actions, if necessary. The requirements of that AD are intended to detect and correct fatigue cracking of the fuselage skin, which could result in reduced structural integrity of the fuselage, and consequent rapid depressurization of the airplane.

#### Actions Since Issuance of Previous Rule

In the preamble to AD 2000-14-04, the FAA specified that the actions required by that AD were considered "interim action" and that the FAA was considering a separate rulemaking action to address the procedures for repetitive ultrasonic, high frequency eddy current, and detailed visual inspections of the fuselage skin adjacent to the drag splice fitting to detect additional cracking, and repair of any cracking detected, as described in Boeing Service Bulletin 747-53A2444, Revision 1, dated June 15, 2000 (which was referenced as the appropriate source of service information in that AD). The FAA now has determined that further rulemaking action is indeed necessary, and this proposed AD follows from that determination.

#### New Service Information

Since the issuance of AD 2000-14-04, the FAA has received a report of severe cracking on a Model 747 series airplane at approximately 14,540 flight cycles. In light of this report, the FAA has reviewed and approved Boeing Alert Service Bulletin 747-53A2444, Revision 2, dated May 24, 2001. Revision 2 is essentially the same as Revision 1 of the service bulletin, but Revision 2 specifies more comprehensive repetitive inspection procedures and reduces the compliance times specified in Revision 1. Revision 2 also references a procedure in the 747 Structural Repair Manual for the repair of certain cracking without further FAA approval.

#### Explanation of Requirements of Proposed Rule

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 2000-14-04 to continue to require a one-time inspection of the fuselage skin adjacent to the drag splice fitting to detect cracking, and follow-on actions, if necessary. This proposed AD also mandates new repetitive inspections for cracking of the fuselage skin adjacent to the drag splice fitting.

#### Differences Between Alert Service Bulletin and This Proposed AD

The service bulletin references the 747 Structural Repair Manual (SRM) Subject 53-30-03, Figure 60, as an appropriate source of service information for accomplishment of the repair of the fuselage skin. Certain revisions to this chapter of the 747 SRM allow the use of 7075-T6 aluminum as an option for skin replacement when accomplishing the repair on the fuselage skin. Because 7075-T6 aluminum is significantly less durable than 2024-T3 aluminum, the FAA has determined that use of 7075-T6 as a repair material cannot be allowed. Future repairs of the subject area that require skin replacement may only use the 2024-T3 material. Existing repairs of the subject area already made from 7075-T6 aluminum will require follow-on inspections accomplished in a manner approved by the FAA.

Although the service bulletin specifies that the manufacturer may be contacted for disposition of certain repair conditions, this proposal would require the repair of those conditions to be accomplished per a method approved by the FAA, or per data meeting the type certification basis of the airplane approved by a Boeing Company Designated Engineering Representative

who has been authorized by the Manager, Seattle Aircraft Certification Office, to make such findings.

#### Interim Action

This is interim action. The manufacturer has advised that it is developing a modification that will positively address the unsafe condition addressed by this AD. Once this modification is developed, approved, and available, the FAA may consider additional rulemaking.

#### Cost Impact

There are approximately 1,301 airplanes of the affected design in the worldwide fleet. The FAA estimates that 260 airplanes of U.S. registry would be affected by this proposed AD.

The actions that are currently required by AD 2000-14-04 take approximately 2 work hours 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 \$31,200, or \$120 per airplane.

The new inspections that are proposed in this AD action would take approximately 7 work hours per airplane to accomplish, at an average labor rate of \$60 per work hour. Based on these figures, the cost impact of the new proposed requirements of this AD on U.S. operators is estimated to be \$109,200, or \$420 per airplane, per inspection cycle.

The cost impact figures discussed above are based on assumptions that no operator has yet accomplished any of the current or proposed 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 proposed herein would 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 proposal would not have federalism implications under Executive Order 13132.

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 39-11813 (65 FR 43219, July 13, 2000), and by adding a new airworthiness directive (AD), to read as follows:

**Boeing:** Docket 2000-NM-220-AD.

Supersedes AD 2000-14-04, Amendment 39-11813.

**Applicability:** All Model 747 series airplanes, 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 (e)(1) 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 detect and correct fatigue cracking of certain areas of the fuselage skin, which could result in reduced structural integrity of the fuselage, and consequent rapid depressurization of the airplane; accomplish the following:

#### Restatement of Requirements of AD 2000-14-04

##### One-Time Detailed Visual Inspection

(a) Prior to the accumulation of 13,000 total flight cycles or within 60 days after July 28, 2000 (the effective date of AD 2000-14-04, amendment 39-11813), whichever occurs later: Perform a one-time external detailed visual inspection of the fuselage skin adjacent to the drag splice fitting as illustrated in Figure 2 of Boeing Service Bulletin 747-53A2444, Revision 1, dated June 15, 2000. If no cracking is detected, no further action is required by this paragraph.

**Note 2:** For the purposes of this AD, a detailed visual inspection is defined as: "An intensive visual examination of a specific structural area, system, installation, or assembly to detect damage, failure, or irregularity. Available lighting is normally supplemented with a direct source of good lighting at intensity deemed appropriate by the inspector. Inspection aids such as mirror, magnifying lenses, etc., may be used. Surface cleaning and elaborate access procedures may be required."

##### Corrective Action

(b) If any cracking is detected during any inspection required by this AD, prior to further flight, repair in accordance with Boeing Alert Service Bulletin 747-53A2444, Revision 2, dated May 24, 2001. Where the service bulletin specifies to contact Boeing for repair instructions, repair in accordance with a method approved by the Manager, Seattle Aircraft Certification Office (ACO), FAA; or in accordance with data meeting the type certification basis of the airplane approved by a Boeing Company Designated Engineering Representative (DER) who has been authorized by the Manager, Seattle ACO, to make such findings. For a repair method to be approved by the Manager, Seattle ACO, as required by this paragraph, the approval letter must specifically reference this AD.

**Note 3:** Repairs accomplished prior to the effective date of this AD in accordance with a method approved by the Manager, Seattle ACO, FAA, or in accordance with data meeting the type certification basis of the airplane approved by a Boeing Company DER, are considered acceptable for compliance with the repair specified in paragraph (b) of this AD.

**Note 4:** Boeing Alert Service Bulletin 747-53A2444, Revision 2, dated May 24, 2001, references the 747 Structural Repair Manual (SRM) as an appropriate source of service information for accomplishment of the repair of the fuselage skin. However, the use of 7075-T6 aluminum as specified in certain revisions of the SRM is not an option for skin replacement when accomplishing the subject repair.

##### Secondary Inspection

(c) For airplanes on which cracking is detected during any inspection required by paragraph (a) or (d) of this AD, prior to further flight after accomplishment of paragraph (b) of this AD: Determine if a secondary inspection of adjacent structure is

required, using the Logic Diagram illustrated in Figure 1 of Boeing Service Bulletin 747-53A2444, Revision 1, dated June 15, 2000, or Boeing Alert Service Bulletin 747-53A2444, Revision 2, dated May 24, 2001. If required, before further flight, accomplish the inspection in accordance with the service bulletin.

**Note 5:** Inspections and repairs accomplished prior to July 28, 2000, in accordance with Boeing Alert Service Bulletin 747-53A2444, dated May 25, 2000, are considered acceptable for compliance with the applicable actions specified in this amendment.

#### New Requirements of This AD

##### Repetitive Inspections

(d) Perform ultrasonic, high frequency eddy current, and detailed visual inspections in accordance with the Work Instructions of Boeing Alert Service Bulletin 747-53A2444, Revision 2, dated May 24, 2001, at the applicable times specified in Figure 1 of the Logic Diagram of the service bulletin; except where the compliance time in the logic diagram specifies an interval of "after the release date of the service bulletin," this AD requires compliance within the interval specified in the service bulletin "after the effective date of this AD." Repeat the applicable inspections at the intervals shown in Figure 1 of the Logic Diagram of the service bulletin. Accomplishment of the inspections required by this paragraph ends the inspections required by paragraph (a) of this AD.

**Note 6:** Where there are differences between the AD and the service bulletin, the AD prevails.

##### Alternative Methods of Compliance

(e)(1) 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, Seattle ACO. Operators shall submit their requests through an appropriate FAA Principal Maintenance Inspector, who may add comments and then send it to the Manager, Seattle ACO.

(2) Alternative methods of compliance, approved previously in accordance with AD 2000-14-04, amendment 39-11813, are approved as alternative methods of compliance with this AD.

**Note 7:** Information concerning the existence of approved alternative methods of compliance with this AD, if any, may be obtained from the Seattle ACO.

#### Special Flight Permits

(f) 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.

Issued in Renton, Washington, on May 30, 2001.

**Vi L. Lipski,**

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

[FR Doc. 01-14043 Filed 6-4-01; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-13-U

## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

### Federal Aviation Administration

#### 14 CFR Part 39

[Docket No. 2000-NM-19-AD]

RIN 2120-AA64

#### **Airworthiness Directives; Boeing Model 767 Series Airplanes Powered by Pratt & Whitney Model PW4000 Series Engines**

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

**ACTION:** Supplemental notice of proposed rulemaking; reopening of comment period.

**SUMMARY:** This document revises an earlier proposed airworthiness directive (AD), applicable to certain Boeing Model 767 series airplanes, that would have required a one-time detailed visual inspection of certain wire bundles located in the aft section of the strut forward fairing panel of both engine struts to detect chafing damage, and repair or replacement of wiring, if necessary. This new action revises the proposed rule by adding replacement of wires repaired by splicing and damaged wires that require splicing, and replacement of the support brackets of the existing wire bundles with new brackets and clamps, which would terminate the existing requirements. The actions specified by this new proposed AD are intended to prevent the potential for dual wire faults from grounded, separated, or shorted wires; which could result in inadvertent takeoff thrust overboost, in-flight loss of thrust, or engine shutdown.

**DATES:** Comments must be received by July 2, 2001.

**ADDRESSES:** Submit comments in triplicate to the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), Transport Airplane Directorate, ANM-114, Attention: Rules Docket No. 2000-NM-19-AD, 1601 Lind Avenue, SW., Renton, Washington 98055-4056. Comments may be inspected at this location between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays. Comments may be submitted via fax to (425) 227-1232. Comments may also be sent via the Internet using

the following address: 9-anm-nprmcment@faa.gov. Comments sent via fax or the Internet must contain "Docket No. 2000-NM-19-AD" in the subject line and need not be submitted in triplicate. Comments sent via the Internet as attached electronic files must be formatted in Microsoft Word 97 for Windows or ASCII text.

The service information referenced in the proposed rule may be obtained from Boeing Commercial Airplane Group, P.O. Box 3707, Seattle, Washington 98124-2207. This information may be examined at the FAA, Transport Airplane Directorate, 1601 Lind Avenue, SW., Renton, Washington.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Dennis Kammers, Aerospace Engineer, Propulsion Branch, ANM-140S, FAA, Seattle Aircraft Certification Office, 1601 Lind Avenue, SW., Renton, Washington 98055-4056; telephone (425) 227-2956; fax (425) 227-1181.

#### **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 action may be changed in light of the comments received.

Submit comments using the following format:

- Organize comments issue-by-issue. For example, discuss a request to change the compliance time and a request to change the service bulletin reference as two separate issues.
- For each issue, state what specific change to the proposed AD is being requested.
- Include justification (e.g., reasons or data) for each request.

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 action

must submit a self-addressed, stamped postcard on which the following statement is made: "Comments to Docket Number 2000-NM-19-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. 2000-NM-19-AD, 1601 Lind Avenue, SW., Renton, Washington 98055-4056.

#### **Discussion**

A proposal to amend part 39 of the Federal Aviation Regulations (14 CFR part 39) to add an airworthiness directive (AD), applicable to certain Boeing Model 767 series airplanes, was published as a notice of proposed rulemaking (NPRM) in the **Federal Register** on September 18, 2000 (65 FR 56264). That NPRM would have required a one-time detailed visual inspection of certain wire bundles located in the aft section of the strut forward fairing panel of both engine struts to detect chafing damage, and repair or replacement of wiring, if necessary. That NPRM was prompted by reports indicating several incidents of severe wire chafing of certain wire bundles in both engine struts. That condition, if not corrected, could result in the potential for dual wire faults from grounded, separated, or shorted wires; and consequent inadvertent takeoff thrust overboost, in-flight loss of thrust, or engine shutdown.

#### **Actions Since Issuance of Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM)**

Since issuance of the NPRM, the FAA has reviewed and approved Boeing Service Bulletin 767-73A0049, Revision 3, dated December 20, 2000, which contained certain changes from Revision 2 of the service bulletin (referenced as the appropriate source of service information for accomplishment of the actions specified in the proposed rule). Revision 3 adds airplanes that have been manufactured since the issuance of the NPRM; updates warranty information; corrects a wire part number, and clarifies repair/splice instructions for fire zone wiring. Revision 3 has been added as a revised source of service information for accomplishment of the specified actions, and the references to Revision 2 have been removed from the supplemental NPRM. Additionally, paragraph (a)(2) of the NPRM has been revised. The reference to the repair of the wires as specified in the wiring practices manual has been removed