

(b) Inspect each bearing for spalling, friction, grinding, damaged bearing sealing flanges, overheating at the bearing inner and outer races and the flanges, deposits of corrosion, and shearing or wear marks on the lockwasher in accordance with the Accomplishment Instructions, paragraph 2.B.2., of ASB 330 or ASB332, as applicable. Remove from service any unairworthy bearing.

(c) If a bearing is removed from service, before replacing the bearing with an airworthy bearing:

(1) Inspect the change rod for visible wear marks or scoring on the bearing journal circumference. If marks or scoring is found, remove the change rod from service.

(2) Inspect the bearing housing for visible wear marks or circular scoring. If wear marks or circular scoring is found, repair or replace the bearing housing in accordance with the Accomplishment Instructions, paragraph 2.B.3., of ASB 330 or ASB 332, as applicable.

(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, Regulations Group, Rotorcraft Directorate, FAA. Operators shall submit their requests through an FAA Principal Maintenance Inspector, who may concur or comment and then send it to the Manager, Regulations Group.

Note 2: Information concerning the existence of approved alternative methods of compliance with this AD, if any, may be obtained from the Regulations Group.

(e) Special flight permits will not be issued.

Note 3: The subject of this AD is addressed in Direction Generale De L'Aviation Civile (France) AD No. 1990-230-041(A) R4, dated February 21, 2001.

Issued in Fort Worth, Texas, on July 5, 2002.

Larry M. Kelly,

Acting Manager, Rotorcraft Directorate, Aircraft Certification Service.

[FR Doc. 02-18196 Filed 7-18-02; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-13-P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Aviation Administration

14 CFR Part 39

[Docket No. 2001-NM-93-AD]

RIN 2120-AA64

Airworthiness Directives; Boeing Model 777-200 Series Airplanes Equipped With General Electric Engines

AGENCY: Federal Aviation Administration, DOT.

ACTION: Proposed rule; withdrawal.

SUMMARY: This action withdraws a notice of proposed rulemaking (NPRM) that proposed a new airworthiness

directive (AD), applicable to all Boeing Model 777-200 series airplanes equipped with General Electric engines. That action would have required installation of a high-temperature silicone foam seal on the aft fairing of the strut. Since issuance of the NPRM, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) has received new information that indicates that the unsafe condition would not be prevented by the proposed action. Subsequently, the FAA has issued new rulemaking that positively addresses the unsafe condition identified in the NPRM and eliminates the need for the actions proposed by the NPRM. Accordingly, the proposed rule is withdrawn.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Technical Information: John Vann, Aerospace Engineer, Propulsion Branch, ANM-140S, FAA, Seattle Aircraft Certification Office, 1601 Lind Avenue, SW., Renton, Washington 98055-4056; telephone (425) 227-1024; fax (425) 227-1181.

Other Information: Judy Golder, Airworthiness Directive Technical Editor/Writer; telephone (425) 687-4241, fax (425) 227-1232. Questions or comments may also be sent via the Internet using the following address: judy.golder@faa.gov. Questions or comments sent via the Internet as attached electronic files must be formatted in Microsoft Word 97 for Windows or ASCII text.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: A proposal to amend part 39 of the Federal Aviation Regulations (14 CFR part 39) to add a new airworthiness directive (AD), applicable to all Boeing Model 777-200 series airplanes equipped with General Electric engines, was published in the **Federal Register** as a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) on October 30, 2001 (66 FR 54727). The proposed rule would have required installation of a high-temperature silicone foam seal on the aft fairing of the strut. That action was prompted by reports indicating that, during routine inspections of the aft fairing of the strut, evidence of an elevated temperature in the interior cavity of the aft fairing was found on several Boeing Model 777-200 series airplanes equipped with General Electric engines. The proposed actions were intended to prevent primary engine exhaust from entering the aft fairing of the strut, elevating the temperature in the aft fairing of the strut, and creating a potential source of ignition, which could lead to an uncontrolled fire in the aft fairing of the strut. Such a fire would expose the wing fuel tank to high-temperature gasses and flames and result in a potential ignition

source for the fuel tank, and reduced structural integrity of the wing.

Actions That Occurred Since the NPRM Was Issued

Since the issuance of that NPRM, one operator reported significant heat damage to the forward end of the diagonal brace on an airplane that had the high-temperature silicone foam seal installed. Investigation revealed that the foam seal was not a sufficient barrier to the heat of the primary engine exhaust. Thus the exhaust entered the aft fairing of the strut through a gap in the heat shield, elevating the temperature and resulting in heat damage to the primary fire seal, heat shield seal, and secondary fluid seal. The damaged seals allowed the exhaust to pass into the aft fairing cavity causing heat damage to the diagonal brace assembly.

As a result of this incident, the FAA has determined that the unsafe condition would not be prevented by the installation of the high temperature silicone foam seal alone, which the NPRM proposed to require.

Other Relevant Rulemaking

On March 29, 2002, the FAA issued AD 2002-07-07, amendment 39-12701 (67 FR 16991, April 9, 2002), applicable to certain Boeing Model 777-200 series airplanes equipped with General Electric GE90 series engines. That AD requires repetitive inspections of the diagonal brace and forward seals of the aft fairing of the strut to find discrepancies, and corrective actions, if necessary. The actions required by that AD are intended to prevent primary engine exhaust from entering the aft fairing of the strut and elevating the temperature, which could lead to heat damage of the seals and diagonal brace. Such damage could result in cracking and fracture of the forward attachment point of the diagonal brace, loss of the diagonal brace load path, and consequent separation of the strut and engine from the airplane.

FAA's Conclusions

In AD 2002-07-07, the FAA stated that it was considering withdrawing NPRM 2001-NM-93-AD. Upon further consideration, the FAA has determined that the unsafe condition addressed by that NPRM would NOT be prevented by the actions that would be required by that proposed AD, but WOULD be prevented by the actions required by AD 2002-07-07. Accordingly, the proposed rule is hereby withdrawn.

Withdrawal of this NPRM constitutes only such action, and does not preclude the agency from issuing another action in the future, nor does it commit the

agency to any course of action in the future.

Regulatory Impact

Since this action only withdraws a notice of proposed rulemaking, it is neither a proposed nor a final rule and therefore is not covered under Executive Order 12866, the Regulatory Flexibility Act, or DOT Regulatory Policies and Procedures (44 FR 11034, February 26, 1979).

List of Subjects in 14 CFR Part 39

Air transportation, Aircraft, Aviation safety, Safety.

The Withdrawal

Accordingly, the notice of proposed rulemaking, Docket 2001–NM–93–AD, published in the **Federal Register** on October 30, 2001 (66 FR 54727), is withdrawn.

Issued in Renton, Washington, on July 11, 2002.

Lirio Liu-Nelson,

Acting Manager, Transport Airplane Directorate, Aircraft Certification Service.

[FR Doc. 02–18200 Filed 7–18–02; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910–13–P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Aviation Administration

14 CFR Part 39

[Docket No. 2002–NM–104–AD]

RIN 2120–AA64

Airworthiness Directives; Saab Model SAAB 2000, SAAB SF340A, and SAAB 340B Series Airplanes

AGENCY: Federal Aviation Administration, DOT.

ACTION: Notice of proposed rulemaking (NPRM).

SUMMARY: This document proposes the adoption of a new airworthiness directive (AD) that is applicable to all Saab Model SAAB 2000, SAAB SF340A, and SAAB 340B series airplanes. This proposal would require replacing the main pitot static tube on each side of the airplane with a new improved pitot static tube, and installing a gasket between the tube and the airplane structure. This action is necessary to prevent ice from blocking the pitot system, due to the pitot tube not having enough heating capacity to stay above freezing temperature, which could result in erroneous airspeed indications. This action is intended to address the identified unsafe condition.

DATES: Comments must be received by August 19, 2002.

ADDRESSES: Submit comments in triplicate to the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), Transport Airplane Directorate, ANM–114, Attention: Rules Docket No. 2002–NM–104–AD, 1601 Lind Avenue, SW., Renton, Washington 98055–4056. Comments may be inspected at this location between 9:00 a.m. and 3:00 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. 2002–NM–104–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 Saab Aircraft AB, SAAB Aircraft Product Support, S–581.88, Linköping, Sweden. This information may be examined at the FAA, Transport Airplane Directorate, 1601 Lind Avenue, SW., Renton, Washington.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dan Rodina, Aerospace Engineer, International Branch, ANM–116, FAA, Transport Airplane Directorate, 1601 Lind Avenue, SW., Renton, Washington 98055–4056; telephone (425) 227–2125; fax (425) 227–1149.

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 2002–NM–104–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. 2002–NM–104–AD, 1601 Lind Avenue, SW., Renton, Washington 98055–4056.

Discussion

The Luftfartsverket (LFV), which is the airworthiness authority for Sweden, notified the FAA that an unsafe condition may exist on all Saab Model SAAB 2000, SAAB SF340A, and SAAB 340B series airplanes. The LFV advises that operators have reported a number of events involving incorrect airspeed indications. A typical scenario is that, during descent from cruise altitude, one or more airspeed indicators incorrectly show gradually decreasing airspeed. At lower altitudes, the correct airspeed is again displayed, and on the ground, no faults can be found. System analysis indicates that, in the scenario described above, a freezing temperature is present in the pitot pressure lines inside the pitot static tube. This condition, if not corrected, could result in ice blocking the pitot system, due to the pitot tube not having enough heating capacity to stay above freezing temperature, which could result in erroneous airspeed indications.

Explanation of Relevant Service Information

Saab has issued Service Bulletin 2000–34–060 (for Model SAAB 2000 series airplanes) and Service Bulletin 340–34–145 (for Model SAAB SF340A and SAAB 340B series airplanes), both dated October 1, 2001, which describe procedures for replacing the main pitot static tube on each side of the airplane with a new improved pitot static tube with increased heating. The service bulletins also describe procedures for installing a new gasket between the tube