

**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION****Federal Aviation Administration****14 CFR Part 39**

[Docket No. 2002-CE-52-AD]

RIN 2120-AA64

**Airworthiness Directives; Stemme GmbH & Co. KG Models S10 and S10-V Sailplanes**

AGENCY: Federal Aviation Administration, DOT.

ACTION: Notice of proposed rulemaking (NPRM).

**SUMMARY:** This document proposes to adopt a new airworthiness directive (AD) that would apply to all Stemme GmbH & Co. KG (Stemme) Models S10 and S10-V sailplanes. This proposed AD would require you to modify the engine compartment fuel and oil system and firewall. This proposed AD is the result of FAA's determination that the actions required in AD 2002-22-04 should also be accomplished on other sailplanes of similar type design. The actions specified by this proposed AD are intended to reduce the potential for a fire to ignite in the engine compartment and to increase the containment of an engine fire in the engine compartment. A fire in the engine compartment could lead to loss of control of the sailplane.

**DATES:** The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) must receive any comments on this proposed rule on or before February 21, 2003.

**ADDRESSES:** Submit comments to FAA, Central Region, Office of the Regional Counsel, Attention: Rules Docket No. 2002-CE-52-AD, 901 Locust, Room 506, Kansas City, Missouri 64106. You may view any comments at this location between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays. You may also send comments electronically to the following address: 9-ACE-7-Docket@faa.gov. Comments sent electronically must contain "Docket No. 2002-CE-52-AD" in the subject line. If you send comments electronically as attached electronic files, the files must be formatted in Microsoft Word 97 for Windows or ASCII text.

You may get service information that applies to this proposed AD from Stemme GmbH & Co. KG, Gustav-Meyer-Allee 25, D-13355 Berlin, Germany; telephone: 49.33.41.31.11.70; facsimile: 49.33.41.31.11.73. You may also view this information at the Rules Docket at the address above.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Mike Kiesov, Aerospace Engineer, FAA, Small Airplane Directorate, 901 Locust, Room 301, Kansas City, Missouri 64106; telephone: (816) 329-4144; facsimile: (816) 329-4090.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:****Comments Invited**

*How do I comment on this proposed AD?* The FAA invites comments on this proposed rule. You may submit whatever written data, views, or arguments you choose. You need to include the rule's docket number and submit your comments to the address specified under the caption **ADDRESSES**. We will consider all comments received on or before the closing date. We may amend this proposed rule in light of comments received. Factual information that supports your ideas and suggestions is extremely helpful in evaluating the effectiveness of this proposed AD action and determining whether we need to take additional rulemaking action.

*Are there any specific portions of this proposed AD I should pay attention to?* The FAA specifically invites comments on the overall regulatory, economic, environmental, and energy aspects of this proposed rule that might suggest a need to modify the proposed rule. You may view all comments we receive before and after the closing date of the proposed rule in the Rules Docket. We will file a report in the Rules Docket that summarizes each contact we have with the public that concerns the substantive parts of this proposed AD.

*How can I be sure FAA receives my comment?* If you want FAA to acknowledge the receipt of your mailed comments, you must include a self-addressed, stamped postcard. On the postcard, write "Comments to Docket No. 2002-CE-52-AD." We will date stamp and mail the postcard back to you.

**Discussion**

*What events have caused this proposed AD?* The Luftfahrt-Bundesamt (LBA), which is the airworthiness authority for Germany, reported an incident of an in-flight fire on a Model S10-VT sailplane. The accident investigation revealed that the fire was not contained in the engine compartment. The manufacturer conducted a design review and determined that modifications to the fuel and oil system and the firewall design will significantly reduce the potential for a fire to ignite in the engine compartment and increase the containment of an engine fire in the engine compartment.

This condition caused us to issue AD 2002-22-04, Amendment 39-12928 (67 FR 66547, November 1, 2002). AD 2002-22-04 requires the following on certain Model S10-VT airplanes:

- modify the engine compartment fuel and oil system; and
- modify the firewall by sealing all gaps.

Although Stemme Models S10 and S10-V sailplanes have a different engine installation (non-turbocharged), they are of similar type design as Stemme Model S10-VT sailplanes. We have determined that similar modifications should also be incorporated on these sailplanes. The LBA has determined that these modifications are not mandatory for sailplanes registered outside of the United States.

*What are the consequences if the condition is not corrected?* If this condition is not prevented, there is potential for a fire to ignite in the engine compartment and spread into the cockpit. Such a condition could lead to loss of control of the sailplane.

*Is there service information that applies to this subject on the affected airplanes?* Stemme has issued Service Bulletin Document Number A31-10-057, dated June 7, 2001, Service Bulletin Document Number A31-10-063, dated September 11, 2002, and Installation Instruction Document Number A34-10-063E, dated August 26, 2002.

*What are the provisions of this service information?* These service documents include procedures for:

- modifying the engine compartment fuel and oil system; and
- modifying the firewall by sealing all gaps.

*Was this in accordance with the bilateral airworthiness agreement?*

These sailplane models are manufactured in Germany and are 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 kept FAA informed of its decision on this matter.

**The FAA's Determination and an Explanation of the Provisions of this Proposed AD**

*What has FAA decided?* The FAA has examined the findings of the LBA; reviewed all available information, including the service information referenced above; and determined that: —the unsafe condition referenced in this document exists or could develop

on other Stemme Models S10 and S10-V sailplanes of the same type design that are on the U.S. registry; —similar actions specified in AD 2002-22-04 should also be accomplished on these sailplane models; —the actions specified in the previously-referenced service information should be accomplished on the affected sailplanes; and

—AD action should be taken in order to correct this unsafe condition.

*What would this proposed AD require?* This proposed AD would require you to incorporate the actions in the previously-referenced service information.

**Cost Impact**

*How many sailplanes would this proposed AD impact?* We estimate that this proposed AD affects 15 sailplanes in the U.S. registry.

*What would be the cost impact of this proposed AD on owners/operators of the affected sailplanes?* We estimate the following costs to accomplish the proposed modifications:

Labor cost	Parts cost	Total cost per sailplane	Total cost on U.S. operators
10 workhours × \$60 per hour = \$600 .....	\$620	\$1,220	\$1,220 × 15 = \$18,300.

**Compliance Time of this Proposed AD**

*What would be the compliance time of this proposed AD?* The compliance time of this proposed AD is “within the next 50 hours time-in-service (TIS) or 6 months after the effective date of this AD, whichever occurs first.”

*Why is the compliance time of this proposed AD presented in both hours TIS and calendar time?* The unsafe condition on these sailplanes is not a result of the number of times the sailplane is operated. Sailplane operation varies among operators. For example, one operator may operate the sailplane 50 hours TIS in 6 months while it may take another operator 12 months or more to accumulate 50 hours TIS. For this reason, the FAA has determined that the compliance time of this proposed AD should be specified in both hours TIS and calendar time in order to ensure this condition is not allowed to go uncorrected over time.

**Regulatory Impact**

*Would this proposed AD impact various entities?* 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 proposed rule would not have federalism implications under Executive Order 13132.

*Would this proposed AD involve a significant rule or regulatory action?* For the reasons discussed above, I certify that this proposed 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) 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 has been placed 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, under 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. FAA amends § 39.13 by adding a new airworthiness directive (AD) to read as follows:

**Stemme GmbH & Co. KG:** Docket No. 2002-CE-52-AD

(a) *What sailplanes are affected by this AD?* This AD affects Models S10 and S10-V sailplanes, all serial numbers, that are certificated in any category.

(b) *Who must comply with this AD?* Anyone who wishes to operate any of the sailplanes identified in paragraph (a) of this AD must comply with this AD.

(c) *What problem does this AD address?* The actions specified by this AD are intended to reduce the potential for a fire to ignite in the engine compartment and to increase the containment of an engine fire in the engine compartment. A fire in the engine compartment could lead to loss of control of the sailplane.

(d) *What actions must I accomplish to address this problem?* To address this problem, you must accomplish the following:

Actions	Compliance	Procedures
Modify the firewall by sealing all gaps and modify the fuel and oil lines in the engine compartment.	Within the next 50 hours time-in-service (TIS) or 6 months after the effective date of this AD, whichever occurs first.	Modify the firewall in accordance with Stemme Service Bulletin A31-10-057, dated June 7, 2001, as specified in Stemme Service Bulletin A31-10-063, dated September 11, 2002. Modify the fuel and oil lines in accordance with Stemme Service Bulletin A31-10-063, dated September 11, 2002, and Stemme Installation Instruction A34-10-063E, dated August 26, 2002.

(e) *Can I comply with this AD in any other way?* You may use an alternative method of compliance or adjust the compliance time if:

(1) Your alternative method of compliance provides an equivalent level of safety; and

(2) The Manager, Standards Office, Small Airplane Directorate, approves your alternative. Submit your request through an

FAA Principal Maintenance Inspector, who may add comments and then send it to the Manager, Standards Office.

**Note:** This AD applies to each sailplane identified in paragraph (a) of this AD, regardless of whether it has been modified, altered, or repaired in the area subject to the requirements of this AD. For sailplanes 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) 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 you have not eliminated the unsafe condition, specific actions you propose to address it.

(f) *Where can I get information about any already-approved alternative methods of compliance?* Contact Mike Kiesov, Aerospace Engineer, FAA, Small Airplane Directorate, 901 Locust, Room 301, Kansas City, Missouri 64106; telephone: (816) 329-4144; facsimile: (816) 329-4090.

(g) *What if I need to fly the sailplane to another location to comply with this AD?* The FAA can issue a special flight permit under sections 21.197 and 21.199 of the Federal Aviation Regulations (14 CFR 21.197 and 21.199) to operate your sailplane to a location where you can accomplish the requirements of this AD.

(h) *How do I get copies of the documents referenced in this AD?* You may get copies of the documents referenced in this AD from Stemme GmbH & Co. KG, Gustav-Meyer-Allee 25, D-13355 Berlin, Germany; telephone: 49.33.41.31.11.70; facsimile: 49.33.41.31.11.73. You may view these documents at FAA, Central Region, Office of the Regional Counsel, 901 Locust, Room 506, Kansas City, Missouri 64106.

Issued in Kansas City, Missouri, on January 8, 2003.

**Dorenda D. Baker,**

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

[FR Doc. 03-673 Filed 1-13-03; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4910-13-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

### Federal Aviation Administration

#### 14 CFR Part 158

[Docket No. FAA-2002-13918; Notice No. 02-19]

RIN 2120-AH43

#### Revisions to Passenger Facility Charge Rule for Compensation to Air Carriers; Extension of Comment Period

**AGENCY:** Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), DOT.

**ACTION:** Notice of proposed rulemaking (NPRM); extension of comment period.

**SUMMARY:** This action extends the comment period for an NPRM the FAA issued on November 20, 2002. In that document, the FAA proposed to amend the passenger facility charge regulation (PFC) by changing the amount and unit of collection that a carrier may retain for collecting and handling PFC revenue. This extension is a result of a joint request from the American Association of Airport Executives (AAAE) and the Airports Council International—North America (ACI-NA).

**DATES:** Send your comments on or before February 12, 2003.

**ADDRESSES:** Address your comments to the Docket Management System, U.S. Department of Transportation, Room Plaza 401, 400 Seventh Street, SW., Washington, DC 20590-0001. You must identify the docket number FAA-2002-13918 at the beginning of your comments, and you should send two copies of your comments. If you wish to receive confirmation that FAA received your comments, include a self-addressed, stamped postcard.

You may also send comments through the Internet to <http://dms.dot.gov>. You may review the public docket containing comments to these proposed regulations in person in the Docket Office between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays. The Docket Office is on the plaza level of the NASSIF Building at the Department of Transportation at the above address. Also, you may review public dockets on the Internet at <http://dms.dot.gov>.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Joseph Hebert, Passenger Facility Charge Branch, APP-530, Federal Aviation Administration, 800 Independence Ave., SW., Washington, DC 20591; telephone: (202) 267-3845, facsimile (202) 267-5302.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

##### Comments Invited

The FAA invites interested persons to participate in this rulemaking by submitting written comments, data, or views. We also invite comments about the economic, environmental, energy, or federalism impacts that might result from adopting the proposals in this document. The most helpful comments reference a specific portion of the proposal, explain the reason for any recommended change, and include supporting data. We ask that you send us two copies of written comments.

We will file in the docket all comments we receive, as well as a report summarizing each substantive public contact with FAA personnel about this proposed rulemaking. The

docket is available for public inspection before and after the comment closing date. If you wish to review the docket in person, go to the address in the **ADDRESSES** section of this preamble between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays. You may also review the docket using the Internet at the web address in the **ADDRESSES** section.

Before acting on this proposal, we will consider all comments we receive on or before the closing date for comments. We will consider comments filed late if it is possible to do so without incurring expense or delay. We may change this proposal because of the comments we receive.

If you want the FAA to acknowledge receipt of your comments on this proposal, include with your comments a pre-addressed, stamped postcard on which the docket number appears. We will stamp the date on the postcard and mail it to you.

#### Background

On November 20, 2002, the FAA issued Notice No. 02-19, Revisions to Passenger Facility Charge Rule for Compensation to Air Carriers (67 FR 70878, November 27, 2002). Comments to that document were to be received on or before January 13, 2003.

On December 20, 2002, AAAE and ACI-NA jointly asked the FAA to extend the comment period to Notice No. 02-19 an additional 120 days. In the request, AAAE and ACI-NA note that air carriers had six years to collect economic data presented in the proposal supporting their request for an increase in PFC handling charges. AAAE and ACI-NA assert that 45 days is not enough time for other interested parties to review and comment on the air carrier economic data, especially since two holidays fell within the comment period.

In response to the AAAE and ACI-NA joint request for an extension of the comment period, the Air Transport Association (ATA) submitted a letter to the public docket on December 30, 2002, urging FAA to deny the request for an extension. ATA asserts that the air carrier data was compiled using procedures recommended by the Department of Transportation Office of the Inspector General. ATA contends that the data is reliable and finds that additional time to review the data is not necessary.

The FAA has considered these arguments and finds that an extension of the comment period to Notice No. 02-19 is in the public interest considering that two holidays fell within the comment period. However,