

TABLE 1.—APPLICABILITY

Model—	Equipped with PPG Aerospace windshields having—		
	Part Nos. (P/N)—		And Serial Nos. (S/N) as listed in—
A300 B2 and B4 series airplanes .....	NP-175201-1, 175201-4,	NP-175201-2, or NP-	Airbus All Operators Telex A300-56A0011, dated October 2, 2001.
A300 B4-600, A300 B4-600R, and A300 F4-600R (collectively called A300-600 airplanes).	NP-175201-1, 175201-4,	NP-175201-2, or NP-	Airbus All Operators Telex A300-600-56A6004, dated October 2, 2001.
A310 series airplanes .....	NP-175201-1, 175201-4,	NP-175201-2, or NP-	Airbus All Operators Telex A310-56A2005, dated October 2, 2001.
A319, A320, and A321 series airplanes .....	NP-165311-2, NP-165311-3, NP-165311-4, NP-165311-5, or NP-165311-6.		Airbus All Operators Telex A320-56A1010, Revision 01, dated October 1, 2001.
A330 series airplanes .....	NP-175201-1, 175201-4,	NP-175201-2, or NP-	Airbus All Operators Telex A330-56A3005, dated October 2, 2001.
A340 series airplanes .....	NP-175201-1, 175201-4,	NP-175201-2, or NP-	Airbus All Operators Telex A340-56A4005, dated October 2, 2001.

**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 (c) 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 failure of both structural plies of the windshield caused by overheating of the power lead wire, which could cause reduced structural integrity of the windshield assembly, and consequent loss of the windshield during flight, accomplish the following:

**Windshield Replacement**

(a) Within 6 months after the effective date of this AD, replace windshields manufactured by PPG Aerospace having certain P/Ns and S/Ns listed in the applicable Airbus all operators telex (AOT) listed in Table 1 of this AD with new windshields, per the applicable Airbus AOT listed in Table 1 of this AD.

**Note 2:** The Airbus AOTs reference PPG Aerospace Service Bulletin NP-175201-56-001, dated September 26, 2001, as an additional source of service information for accomplishing the replacement required by this AD.

**Part Installation**

(b) As of the effective date of this AD, no person shall install on any airplane a windshield manufactured by PPG Aerospace having a certain P/N and S/N listed in the applicable AOT listed in Table 1 of this AD.

**Alternative Methods of Compliance**

(c) 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,

International Branch, ANM-116, FAA, Transport Airplane Directorate. Operators shall submit their requests through an appropriate FAA Principal Maintenance Inspector, who may add comments and then send it to the Manager, International Branch, ANM-116.

**Note 3:** Information concerning the existence of approved alternative methods of compliance with this AD, if any, may be obtained from the International Branch, ANM-116.

**Special Flight Permits**

(d) 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.

**Note 4:** The subject of this AD is addressed in French airworthiness directive 2001-606(B), dated December 12, 2001.

Issued in Renton, Washington, on May 28, 2003.

**Vi L. Lipski,**

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

[FR Doc. 03-13977 Filed 6-3-03; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4910-13-P**

**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**

**Federal Aviation Administration**

**14 CFR Part 39**

[Docket No. 2001-NM-325-AD]

RIN 2120-AA64

**Airworthiness Directives; McDonnell Douglas Model 717-200 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

McDonnell Douglas Model 717-200 airplanes. This proposal would require revising the Airworthiness Limitations Section of the Instructions for Continued Airworthiness to incorporate new removal limits for certain components of the flap system and to reduce the interval of inspections for fatigue cracking of certain principal structural elements (PSEs). This action is necessary to detect and correct fatigue cracking of certain safe-life structure and certain PSEs, which could adversely affect the structural integrity of the airplane. This action is intended to address the identified unsafe condition.

**DATES:** Comments must be received by July 21, 2003.

**ADDRESSES:** Submit comments in triplicate to the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), Transport Airplane Directorate, ANM-114, Attention: Rules Docket No. 2001-NM-325-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-nprmcomment@faa.gov*. Comments sent via fax or the Internet must contain "Docket No. 2001-NM-325-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 or 2000 or ASCII text.

The service information referenced in the proposed rule may be obtained from Boeing Commercial Aircraft Group, Long Beach Division, 3855 Lakewood Boulevard, Long Beach, California 90846, Attention: Data and Service Management, Dept. C1-L5A (D800-0024). This information may be

examined 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.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Maureen Moreland, Aerospace Engineer, Airframe Branch, ANM-120L, FAA, Los Angeles Aircraft Certification Office, 3960 Paramount Boulevard, Lakewood, California 90712-4137; telephone (562) 627-5238; fax (562) 627-5210.

**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 2001-NM-325-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. 2001-NM-325-AD, 1601 Lind Avenue, SW., Renton, Washington 98055-4056.

**Discussion**

As service experience is accumulated on airplanes or as the result of post-certification testing and evaluation, it may become necessary to revise removal limits for removal of certain life-limited components of the airplane or revise the interval for certain structural inspections in order to ensure the continued structural integrity of the airplane. The manufacturer may revise the Airworthiness Limitations document to include more restrictive life limits or revise repetitive intervals for certain non-destructive inspection (NDI) techniques and procedures for each principal structural element (PSE). For the purposes of this airworthiness directive, a PSE is defined as an element of structure that contributes significantly to carrying flight, ground, and pressurization loads. If a failure occurs on any of those PSEs, it could adversely affect the structural integrity of the airplane.

Boeing has completed analyses of certain safe-life structure on Model 717-200 airplanes. The results of these analyses indicate that removal limits of certain components of the flap system must be revised. Additionally, new data also indicate that the interval for inspections to detect fatigue cracking for certain PSEs also must be revised.

The actions specified by the proposed AD are intended to detect fatigue cracking of certain safe-life structure and certain PSEs and to require removal of certain safe-life structure in a timely manner. Such fatigue cracking, if not detected and corrected, could adversely affect the structural integrity of the airplane.

**Explanation of Relevant Service Information**

The FAA has reviewed and approved Boeing 717-200 Airworthiness Limitations Instructions (ALI), Boeing Report Number MDC-96K9063, Revision 3, dated August 2002. Among other things, Revision 3 contains mandatory removal limits for certain components of the flap system and revises some intervals for inspections for fatigue cracking of certain PSEs. Additionally, Revision 3 corrects certain part numbers specified in an earlier ALI revision, adds some flap idler hinge parts to the PSE removal limits, and corrects some typographical errors that appeared in an earlier ALI revision. Accomplishment of the actions specified in the ALI is intended to

adequately address the identified unsafe condition.

**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 require operators to revise the Boeing 717-200 ALI to incorporate Boeing Report Number MDC-96K9063, Revision 3, dated August 2002.

**Changes to 14 CFR Part 39/Effect on the Proposed AD**

On July 10, 2002, the FAA issued a new version of 14 CFR part 39 (67 FR 47997, July 22, 2002), which governs the FAA's airworthiness directives system. The regulation now includes material that relates to special flight permits and alternative methods of compliance. Because we have now included this material in part 39, we no longer need to include it in each individual AD.

**Cost Impact**

There are approximately 133 Model 717-200 series airplanes of the affected design in the worldwide fleet. The FAA estimates that 108 airplanes of U.S. registry would be affected by this proposed AD, that it would take approximately 1 work hour per airplane to accomplish the proposed actions, and that the average labor rate is \$60 per work hour. Based on these figures, the cost impact of the proposed AD on U.S. operators is estimated to be \$6,480, or \$60 per airplane.

The cost impact figure discussed above is based on assumptions that no operator has yet accomplished any of the proposed requirements of this AD action, and that no operator would accomplish those actions in the future if this proposed 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 adding the following new airworthiness directive:

**McDonnell Douglas:** Docket 2001-NM-325-AD.

*Applicability:* All Model 717-200 airplanes, certificated in any category.

**Note 1:** This AD requires revisions to certain operator maintenance documents to include new inspections. Compliance with these inspections is required by 14 CFR 91.403(c). For airplanes that have been previously modified, altered, or repaired in the areas addressed by these inspections, the operator may not be able to accomplish the inspections described in the revisions. In this situation, to comply with 14 CFR 91.403(c), the operator must request approval for an alternative method of compliance in accordance with paragraph (c) of this AD. The request should include a description of changes to the required inspections that will ensure the continued damage tolerance of the affected structure. The FAA has provided guidance for this determination in Advisory Circular (AC) 25-1529.

*Compliance:* Required as indicated, unless accomplished previously.

To detect and correct fatigue cracking of certain safe-life structure and certain principal structural elements, which could adversely affect the structural integrity of the airplane; accomplish the following:

#### Revising Airworthiness Limitations Section

(a) Within 180 days after the effective date of this AD, revise the Airworthiness Limitations Section of the Instructions for Continued Airworthiness, Airworthiness Limitations Instructions (ALI), in accordance with Boeing Report No. MDC-96K9063, Revision 3, dated August 2002.

(b) Except as provided by paragraph (c) of this AD: After the actions specified in paragraph (a) of this AD have been accomplished, no alternative inspection intervals or removal times may be approved for the safe-life limited parts specified in Boeing Report No. MDC-96K9063, Revision 3, dated August 2002.

#### Alternative Methods of Compliance

(c) In accordance with 14 CFR 39.19, the Manager, Los Angeles Aircraft Certification Office (ACO), FAA, is authorized to approve alternative methods of compliance for this AD.

Issued in Renton, Washington, on May 28, 2003.

**Ali Bahrami,**

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

[FR Doc. 03-13978 Filed 6-3-03; 8:45 am]

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#### DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

#### Federal Aviation Administration

#### 14 CFR Part 39

[Docket No. 2003-CE-16-AD]

RIN 2120-AA64

#### Airworthiness Directives; Raytheon Aircraft Company Model 1900, 1900C, and 1900D Airplanes

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

**ACTION:** Notice of proposed rulemaking (NPRM).

**SUMMARY:** This document proposes to supersede Airworthiness Directive (AD) 97-22-16, which applies to certain Raytheon Model 1900, 1900C, and 1900D airplanes. AD 97-22-16 currently requires you to replace the bearings on the vent blower assemblies with improved design bearings and install a thermal protection device for the vent blowers. That AD resulted from reports of vent blower assembly bearings seizing and locking the blower motor on several of the affected airplanes. This proposed AD is the result of reports that vent blower assemblies modified in accordance with AD 97-22-16 are still malfunctioning. This proposed AD would retain the actions required in AD 97-22-16 for certain vent blower assemblies and require you to incorporate further

product improvement modifications on all affected vent blower assemblies. The actions specified by this proposed AD are intended to prevent smoke from entering the cockpit and cabin due to the current configuration of vent blower assemblies, which could result in the pilot becoming incapacitated or impairing her/his judgment. Such a condition could lead to the pilot not being able to make critical flight safety decisions and result in loss of control of the airplane.

**DATES:** The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) must receive any comments on this proposed rule on or before August 4, 2003.

**ADDRESSES:** Submit comments to FAA, Central Region, Office of the Regional Counsel, Attention: Rules Docket No. 2003-CE-16-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](mailto:9-ACE-7-Docket@faa.gov). Comments sent electronically must contain "Docket No. 2003-CE-16-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 Raytheon Aircraft Company, 9709 E. Central, Wichita, Kansas 67201-0085; telephone: (800) 429-5372 or (316) 676-3140. You may also view this information at the Rules Docket at the address above.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Dan Withers, Aerospace Engineer, Wichita Aircraft Certification Office, FAA, 1801 Airport Road, Wichita, Kansas 67209; telephone: (316) 946-4196; facsimile: (316) 946-4107.

#### 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 proposed 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