

3530–20, and the new tuning weight assembly, P/N 365A33–3546–00, on the same tail rotor hub would be prohibited. The actions would be required to be accomplished in accordance with the service bulletin described previously.

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 AD system. The regulation now includes material that relates to altered products, 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.

The FAA estimates that this proposed AD would affect 3 helicopters of U.S. registry and the proposed actions would take approximately 8 work hours per helicopter to accomplish at an average labor rate of \$65 per work hour. Required parts would cost approximately \$3,290 and \$40 for attaching hardware. Based on these figures, we estimate the total cost impact of the proposed AD on U.S. operators to be \$3,850 for each helicopter, or \$11,550 for the entire fleet.

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 a new airworthiness directive to read as follows:

Eurocopter France: Docket No. 2003–SW–12–AD.

Applicability: Model EC 155B helicopters with an upgraded Quiet Fenestron tail rotor hub, part number (P/N) 365A33–3501–02, with tail rotor attachment bushing, P/N 365A33–3530–20, and tail rotor gearbox, P/N 365A33–6005–04 (without the reinforced control shaft, P/N 365A33–6161–21) or tail rotor gearbox, P/N 365A33–6005–06 (with reinforced control shaft, P/N 365A33–6214–20), installed, certificated in any category.

Compliance: Within 3 months, unless accomplished previously.

To prevent vibration in the tail rotor attachments and the pilot's anti-torque pedals, blade pitch control failure, and subsequent loss of control of the helicopter, accomplish the following:

(a) Install a tail rotor blade (blade)-to-torsion bar attachment tuning weight assembly, P/N 356A33–3546–00, on each blade of the Quiet Fenestron tail rotor in accordance with paragraph 2, Accomplishment Instructions, of Eurocopter France Alert Service Bulletin 64A001, dated October 30, 2002. Replace each of the 10 blade attachment bushings, P/N 365A33–3530–20, at the same time. Do not mix the existing blade attachment bushings, P/N 365A33–3530–20, and the new tuning weight assemblies, P/N 365A33–3546–00, on the same tail rotor hub.

(b) To request a different method of compliance or a different compliance time for this AD, follow the procedures in 14 CFR 39.19. Contact the Safety Management Group, Rotorcraft Directorate, FAA, for information about previously approved alternative methods of compliance.

Note: The subject of this AD is addressed in Direction Generale De L'Aviation Civile (France) AD 2002–621(A), dated December 11, 2002.

Issued in Fort Worth, Texas, on November 4, 2003.

Mark R. Schilling,

*Acting Manager, Rotorcraft Directorate,
Aircraft Certification Service.*

[FR Doc. 03–29220 Filed 11–21–03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910–13–P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Aviation Administration

14 CFR Part 39

[Docket No. 2003–SW–35–AD]

RIN 2120–AA64

Airworthiness Directives; Sikorsky Aircraft Corporation Model S–61L, S–61N, S–61–NM, and S–61R Helicopters

AGENCY: Federal Aviation Administration, DOT.

ACTION: Notice of proposed rulemaking (NPRM).

SUMMARY: This document proposes adopting a new airworthiness directive (AD) for the specified Sikorsky Aircraft Corporation (Sikorsky) model helicopters. The AD would require installing a Number 5 bearing chip detector in each engine, installing an on-board chip detector annunciation system, and revising the Rotorcraft Flight Manual (RFM) to add procedures for crew response to an on-board chip detector annunciation. This proposal is prompted by reports of the failure of the engine's Number 5 bearing that resulted in erratic movement of the high-speed engine-to-transmission shaft (shaft), oil leakage, an in-flight fire and an emergency landing. The actions specified by the proposed AD are intended to detect an impending engine bearing (bearing) failure and prevent a bearing failure, oil leakage, severing of the shaft housing, an uncontained in-flight fire, and a subsequent immediate emergency landing.

DATES: Comments must be received on or before January 23, 2004.

ADDRESSES: Submit comments in triplicate to the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), Office of the Regional Counsel, Southwest Region, Attention: Rules Docket No. 2003–SW–35–AD, 2601 Meacham Blvd., Room 663, Fort Worth, Texas 76137. You may also send comments electronically to the Rules Docket at the following address: 9-asw-adcomments@faa.gov. Comments may be inspected at the Office of the Regional Counsel between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Kirk Gustafson, Aviation Safety Engineer, Boston Aircraft Certification Office, Engine and Propeller Directorate, 12 New England Executive Park, Burlington, MA 01803, telephone (781) 238–7190, fax (781) 238–7170.

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 should 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 will be considered before taking action on the proposed rule. The proposals contained in this document may be changed in light of the comments received.

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 mailed comments submitted in response to this proposal must submit a self-addressed, stamped postcard on which the following statement is made: "Comments to Docket No. 2003-SW-35-AD." The postcard will be date stamped and returned to the commenter.

Discussion

This document proposes adopting a new AD for Sikorsky Model S-61L, S-61N, S-61-NM, and S-61R helicopters. The AD would require, within 60 days, installing a chip detector for the Number 5 engine bearing, installing an on-board chip detector annunciation system, and providing in the Emergency Procedures section of the RFM the emergency procedures for the flight crew to follow in the event that the engine chip detector warning light comes on during flight operations. This proposal is prompted by at least five similar events that varied in severity, in which the Number 5 bearing on the high-speed shaft connecting the engine to the transmission failed. Failure of this engine bearing resulted in uneven rotation of the shaft, leakage of engine oil that may be ignited by friction-induced heat, failure of the shaft housing, which is part of the fire containment system, and an uncontained fire. In the most severe incident, the fire consumed the aircraft after a successful emergency landing. The actions specified by the proposed AD are intended to detect an impending

bearing failure and to prevent a bearing failure, oil leakage, severing of the shaft housing, an uncontained in-flight fire, and a subsequent immediate emergency landing.

The FAA has reviewed General Electric Aircraft Engine CT58 Service Bulletin Number 72-0195, dated May 1, 2003, which describes procedures for installing an electrical chip detector (either part number 3018T72P01 or 3049T42P01) in the CT58 engine power turbine accessory drive assembly. The FAA has also reviewed Sikorsky Aircraft Corporation Alert Service Bulletin No. 61B30-15, dated June 9, 2003, which describes procedures for installing an on-board cockpit annunciation system that interfaces with these engine chip detectors, as a means to detect metallic chips in the event of deterioration of the Number 5 bearing in either engine.

This unsafe condition is likely to exist or develop on other helicopters of the same type design. Therefore, the proposed AD would require, within 60 days, installing a chip detector for the No. 5 bearing, installing an on-board chip detector annunciation system, and revising the RFM to add procedures for crew response to an on-board chip detector annunciation. The actions would be required to be accomplished in accordance with the two service bulletins described previously.

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 AD system. The regulation now includes material that relates to altered products, 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.

The FAA estimates that this proposed AD would affect 21 helicopters of U.S. registry, and the proposed actions would take approximately 81.5 work hours per helicopter to accomplish at an average labor rate of \$65 per work hour. Required parts would cost approximately \$1,940 per helicopter. Based on these figures, the total cost impact of the proposed AD on U.S. operators would be \$7,238 per helicopter, or \$151,998 for the entire fleet.

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 a new airworthiness directive to read as follows:

Sikorsky Aircraft Corporation: Docket No. 2003-SW-35-AD.

Applicability: Model S-61L, S-61N, S-61-NM, and S-61R helicopters.

Compliance: Required within 60 days, unless accomplished previously.

To detect impending engine bearing (bearing) failure and prevent a bearing failure, oil leakage, severing of the shaft housing, an uncontained in-flight fire, and a subsequent immediate emergency landing, accomplish the following:

(a) Install an engine chip detector, part number 3049T42P01 or 3018T72P01, in the engine power turbine accessory drive assembly in accordance with the Accomplishment Instructions, paragraphs 3.A. and 3.B., in General Electric Aircraft Engines CT58 Service Bulletin Number 72-0195, dated May 1, 2003.

(b) Install an on-board engine chip detector annunciation system in accordance with Sikorsky Aircraft Corporation Alert Service Bulletin No. 61B30-15, dated June 9, 2003 (ASB). For helicopters with a master warning caution panel (MWCP) manufactured by United Controls or Sundstrand Data, install in accordance with paragraph 3.B. of the ASB. For helicopters with aN MWCP manufactured by Grimes Mfg., install in accordance with paragraph 3.C. of the ASB.

(c) After accomplishing paragraph (b) of this AD, before further flight, perform a functional test of the engine chip detector system and repeat the functional test at intervals not to exceed 150 hours TIS in accordance with the Accomplishment Instructions, paragraph 3.D., of the ASB.

(d) Insert the emergency procedures for an on-board engine chip detector warning light illumination into the Emergency Procedures section of the applicable Rotorcraft Flight Manual in accordance with the Accomplishment Instructions, paragraph 3.E., of the ASB.

(e) To request a different method of compliance or a different compliance time for this AD, follow the procedures in 14 CFR 39.19. Contact the Boston Aircraft Certification Office, Engine and Propeller Directorate, FAA, for information about previously approved alternative methods of compliance.

Issued in Fort Worth, Texas, on November 17, 2003.

David A. Downey,

Manager, Rotorcraft Directorate, Aircraft Certification Service.

[FR Doc. 03-29219 Filed 11-21-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-13-P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Aviation Administration

14 CFR Part 71

[Docket No. FAA-2003-15471; Airspace Docket No. 03-AWA-6]

RIN 2120-AA66

Proposed Modification of the Minneapolis Class B Airspace Area; MN

AGENCY: Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), DOT.

ACTION: Notice of proposed rulemaking (NPRM).

SUMMARY: This action proposes to modify the current Minneapolis, MN, Class B airspace area. Specifically, this action proposes airspace changes to contain large turbine-powered aircraft during operations to the new Runway 17/35 and to address an increase in aircraft operations to and from the Minneapolis-St. Paul International (Wold-Chamberlain) Airport (MSP). The FAA is proposing this action to enhance safety and improve the management of aircraft operations in the Minneapolis terminal area. Further, this effort supports the FAA's national airspace redesign goal of optimizing terminal and en route airspace areas to reduce aircraft delays and improve system capacity.

DATES: Comments must be received on or before January 23, 2004.

ADDRESSES: Send comments on this proposal to the Docket Management

System, U.S. Department of Transportation, Room Plaza 401, 400 Seventh Street, SW., Washington, DC 20590-0001. You must identify both docket numbers, FAA-2003-15471/Airspace Docket No. 03-AWA-6, at the beginning of your comments.

You may also submit comments through the Internet at <http://dms.dot.gov>. You may review the public docket containing the proposal, any comments received, and any final disposition in person in the Dockets Office between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays. The Dockets Office (telephone 1-800-647-5527) is on the plaza level of the Department of Transportation NASSIF Building at the above address.

An informal docket may also be examined during normal business hours at the office of the Regional Air Traffic Division, Federal Aviation Administration, 2300 East Devon Avenue, Des Plaines, IL 60018.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Steve Rohring, Airspace and Rules Division, ATA-400, Office of Air Traffic Airspace Management, Federal Aviation Administration, 800 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20591; telephone: (202) 267-8783.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Comments Invited

Interested parties are invited to participate in this proposed rulemaking by submitting such written data, views, or arguments as they may desire. Comments that provide the factual basis supporting the views and suggestions presented are particularly helpful in developing reasoned regulatory decisions on the proposal. Comments are specifically invited on the overall regulatory, aeronautical, economic, environmental, and energy-related aspects of the proposal. Communications should identify both docket numbers and be submitted in triplicate to the address listed above. Commenters wishing the FAA to acknowledge receipt of their comments on this notice must submit with those comments a self-addressed, stamped postcard on which the following statement is made: "Comments to Docket Nos. FAA-2003-15471/Airspace Docket No. 03-AWA-6." The postcard will be date/time stamped and returned to the commenter. All communications received on or before the specified closing date for comments will be considered before taking action on the proposed rule. The proposal contained in this notice may be changed in light of comments received. All comments submitted will be available for

examination in the public docket both before and after the closing date for comments. A report summarizing each substantive public contact with FAA personnel concerned with this rulemaking will be filed in the docket.

Availability of NPRM's

An electronic copy of this document may be downloaded through the Internet at <http://dms.dot.gov>. Recently published rulemaking documents can also be accessed through the FAA's Web page at <http://www.faa.gov> or the Superintendent of Documents Web page at <http://www.access.gpo.gov/nara>.

Additionally, any person may also obtain a copy of this notice by submitting a request to the FAA, Office of Air Traffic Airspace Management, ATA-400, 800 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20591, or by calling (202) 267-8783. Communications must identify both docket numbers for this notice. Persons interested in being placed on a mailing list for future NPRM's should call the FAA's, Office of Rulemaking, (202) 267-9677, for a copy of Advisory Circular No. 11-2A, Notice of Proposed Rulemaking Distribution System, which describes the application procedure.

Background

In August 1979, the FAA issued a final rule establishing the Minneapolis, MN Terminal Control Area (TCA). This area was later re-classified as a Class B airspace area as a result of the Airspace Reclassification Final Rule (56 FR 65638); however, this final rule did not alter the dimensions of the original TCA.

Since its establishment, the Minneapolis terminal area has experienced a significant growth in aircraft operations from 233,000 in 1979 to over 518,000 in 2002. An analysis of MSP aircraft operations indicates that this increase has resulted in aircraft (arriving and departing MSP) frequently flying outside the horizontal and vertical limits of the current MSP Class B airspace area.

Further, in the first half of 2002, there were 17 traffic alert and collision avoidance system (TCAS) events reported in the area. These TCAS events occurred in the airspace areas proposed in this notice as a modification to the current MSP Class B airspace area. A TCAS event is defined as a situation where a pilot receives an alert on an aircraft in close proximity and is provided climb or descend instructions to avoid that aircraft. The TCAS sounds an alarm when it determines that another aircraft will pass too closely to the subject aircraft. The referenced