

are addressed. This difference has been coordinated with the DAC.

Cost Impact

The FAA estimates that 290 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 \$65 per work hour. There would be no charge for required parts. Based on these figures, the cost impact of the proposed AD on U.S. operators is estimated to be \$18,850, or \$65 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 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:

Empresa Brasileira de Aeronautica S.A.

(EMBRAER): Docket 2002–NM–352–AD.

Applicability: Model EMB–135 and –145 series airplanes, as listed in EMBRAER Service Bulletin 145–80–0004, Change 01, dated October 22, 2001; certificated in any category.

Compliance: Required as indicated, unless accomplished previously.

To prevent sheared air turbine starters (ATS) output shafts, which could result in oil flowing down the engine accessory gear box shafts and dripping into the engine compartments, and consequent oil fire, in-flight shutdown, and/or rejected take-off, accomplish the following:

Replacement of ATSS With Modified ATSS

(a) Within 800 flight hours after the effective date of this AD, replace the ATSS with modified ATSS in accordance with the Accomplishment Instructions of EMBRAER Service Bulletin 145–80–0004, Change 01, dated October 22, 2001.

Note 1: Honeywell Service Bulletin 3505910–80–1710, Revision 1, dated August 7, 2001, is incorporated within the pages of EMBRAER Service Bulletin 145–80–0004, Change 01, dated October 22, 2001.

(b) Accomplishment of the specified actions before the effective date of this AD in accordance with EMBRAER Service Bulletin 145–80–0004, dated May 23, 2001, is considered acceptable for compliance with paragraph (a) of this AD.

Alternative Methods of Compliance

(c) In accordance with 14 CFR 39.19, the Manager, International Branch, ANM–116, FAA, Transport Airplane Directorate, is authorized to approve alternative methods of compliance for this AD.

Note 2: The subject of this AD is addressed in Brazilian airworthiness directive 2001–09–04, dated October 10, 2001.

Issued in Renton, Washington, on December 10, 2003.

Kevin Mullin,

Acting Manager, Transport Airplane Directorate, Aircraft Certification Service.

[FR Doc. 03–31181 Filed 12–17–03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910–13–U

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Aviation Administration

14 CFR Part 39

[Docket No. 2002–NM–335–AD]

RIN 2120–AA64

Airworthiness Directives; Boeing Model 707 and 720 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 certain Boeing Model 707 and 720 series airplanes. This proposal would require repetitive inspections of the upper and lower barrel nuts and bolts that retain the aft trunnion support fitting of each main landing gear for corrosion, cracks, and loose or missing nuts and bolts; torque checks of the upper and lower bolts to verify the torque is within a specified range; and corrective actions, if necessary. This action is necessary to detect and correct cracking and/or loss of the barrel nuts and bolts that retain the aft trunnion support fitting, which could result in the collapse of the main landing gear upon landing. This action is intended to address the identified unsafe condition.

DATES: Comments must be received by February 2, 2004.

ADDRESSES: Submit comments in triplicate to the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), Transport Airplane Directorate, ANM–114, Attention: Rules Docket No. 2002–NM–335–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. 2002–NM–335–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 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:

Candice Gerretsen, Aerospace Engineer, Airframe Branch, ANM-120S, FAA, Seattle Aircraft Certification Office, 1601 Lind Avenue, SW., Renton, Washington 98055-4056; telephone (425) 917-6428; fax (425) 917-6590.

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-335-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-335-AD, 1601 Lind Avenue, SW., Renton, Washington 98055-4056.

Discussion

The FAA has received reports indicating that one operator found cracks in the barrel nut that attaches the aft trunnion bearing cap of the main landing gear to the trunnion support fitting and that another operator discovered that the barrel nut and bolt were missing, on Boeing Model 707 series airplanes. The cause of the cracking is stress corrosion. This condition, if not detected and corrected, could result in cracking and/or loss of the barrel nuts and bolts that retain the aft trunnion support fitting, which could result in the collapse of the main landing gear upon landing.

Explanation of Relevant Service Information

The FAA has reviewed and approved Boeing 707/720 Alert Service Bulletin A3509, dated June 13, 2002, which describes procedures for performing repetitive detailed inspections of the upper and lower barrel nuts and bolts that retain the aft trunnion support fitting of each main landing gear for corrosion, cracks, and loose or missing nuts and bolts; torque checks of the upper and lower bolts to verify the torque is within the specified range; and corrective actions, if necessary. The corrective actions consist of performing a detailed inspection of the aft trunnion bearing cap and aft trunnion support fitting for corrosion, and repair if necessary; performing a magnetic particle inspection of the aft trunnion bearing cap for cracks, and replacement if necessary; and reinstalling the main landing gear trunnion with new Inconel barrel nuts and bolts to retain the aft trunnion support fitting. Accomplishment of the actions specified in the service bulletin 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 accomplishment of the actions specified in the service bulletin described previously.

Cost Impact

There are approximately 230 airplanes of the affected design in the worldwide fleet. The FAA estimates that 42 airplanes of U.S. registry would be affected by this proposed AD.

It would take approximately 1 work hour per airplane to accomplish the proposed detailed inspection of the upper and lower barrel nuts and bolts

and the torque check. The average labor rate is \$65 per work hour. Based on these figures, the cost impact on U.S. operators is estimated to be \$2,730, or \$65 per airplane, per inspection and torque check.

It would take approximately 3 work hours per airplane to accomplish the proposed detailed inspection of the aft trunnion bearing cap. The average labor rate is \$65 per work hour. Based on these figures, the cost impact on U.S. operators is estimated to be \$8,190, or \$195 per airplane.

It would take approximately 4 work hours per airplane to accomplish the proposed installation of the new Inconel barrel nut and bolt and the main landing gear trunnion. The average labor rate is \$65 per work hour. Based on these figures, the cost impact on U.S. operators is estimated to be \$10,920, or \$260 per airplane.

Required parts would cost approximately \$3,380 per airplane.

The cost impact figures discussed above are 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:

Boeing: Docket 2002–NM–335–AD.

Applicability: Model 707 and 720 series airplanes, as listed in Boeing 707/720 Alert Service Bulletin A3509, dated June 13, 2002; certificated in any category.

Compliance: Required as indicated, unless accomplished previously.

To detect and correct cracking and/or loss of the upper and lower barrel nuts and bolts that retain the aft trunnion support fitting, which could result in the collapse of the main landing gear upon landing, accomplish the following:

Service Bulletin References

(a) The term “service bulletin,” as used in this AD, means the Accomplishment Instructions of Boeing 707/720 Alert Service Bulletin A3509, dated June 13, 2002.

Initial Inspection

(b) Within 60 days after the effective date of this AD, for each main landing gear, perform the inspection specified in paragraph (b)(1) of this AD and the torque check specified in paragraph (b)(2) of this AD, in accordance with the service bulletin.

(1) Perform a detailed inspection of the upper and lower barrel nuts and bolts that retain the aft trunnion support fitting for corrosion, cracks, and loose or missing nuts and bolts.

(2) Torque check the upper and lower bolts to verify the torque is within the range specified in Figure 2 of the service bulletin.

Repetitive Inspections

(c) If no corrosion, crack, or loose or missing nut or bolt is found, and the torque is found to be within the specified range, during the inspection and torque check specified in paragraph (b) of this AD, then repeat the actions specified in paragraph (b) of this AD thereafter at intervals not to exceed 60 days.

Corrective Actions

(d) If any corrosion, crack, or loose or missing nut or bolt is found, or if the torque

is found not to be within the specified range, during the inspection and torque check specified in paragraph (b) of this AD: Before further flight, do the corrective actions specified in paragraphs (d)(1) through (d)(3) of this AD. Accomplishment of these actions constitutes terminating action for the repetitive inspections specified in paragraph (c) of this AD.

(1) Perform a detailed inspection of the aft trunnion bearing cap and aft trunnion support fitting for corrosion, in accordance with the service bulletin. If any corrosion is detected, before further flight, repair in accordance with the service bulletin.

(2) Perform a magnetic particle inspection of the aft trunnion bearing cap for cracks in accordance with Figure 3 of the service bulletin.

(i) If no crack is found, before further flight, reinstall the inspected aft trunnion bearing cap in accordance with the service bulletin.

(ii) If any crack is found, before further flight, replace the aft trunnion bearing cap with a new aft trunnion bearing cap in accordance with the service bulletin.

(3) Reinstall the main landing gear trunnion with new Inconel barrel nuts and bolts to retain the aft trunnion support fitting, in accordance with Figure 4 of the service bulletin.

Terminating Action

(e) Within one year after the effective date of this AD, for each main landing gear, replace the upper and lower steel barrel nuts and H–11 bolts that retain the aft trunnion support fitting with new Inconel barrel nuts and bolts as specified in paragraphs (d)(1) through (d)(3) of this AD. Accomplishment of these actions constitutes terminating action for the requirements of this AD.

Parts Installation

(f) As of the effective date of this AD, no person shall install a steel barrel nut with H–11 bolt to retain the aft trunnion support fitting, on any airplane.

Alternative Methods of Compliance

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

Issued in Renton, Washington, on December 10, 2003.

Kevin Mullin,

Acting Manager, Transport Airplane Directorate, Aircraft Certification Service.

[FR Doc. 03–31180 Filed 12–17–03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910–13–U

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Aviation Administration

14 CFR Part 39

[Docket No. 2002–NM–175–AD]

RIN 2120–AA64

Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Model A310 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 certain Airbus Model A310 series airplanes, that requires repetitive inspections of the fuselage skin to detect corrosion or fatigue cracking around and under the chafing plates of the wing root; and corrective actions, if necessary. That AD also provides an optional terminating action for the repetitive inspections. This action would reinstate repetitive inspections in certain areas where corrosion was detected and reworked as required by the existing AD. The actions specified by the proposed AD are intended to detect and correct fatigue cracks and corrosion around and under the chafing plates of the wing root, which could result in reduced structural integrity of the airplane. This action is intended to address the identified unsafe condition.

DATES: Comments must be received by January 20, 2004.

ADDRESSES: Submit comments in triplicate to the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), Transport Airplane Directorate, ANM–114, Attention: Rules Docket No. 2002–NM–175–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. 2002–NM–175–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 Airbus Industrie, 1 Rond Point Maurice Bellonte, 31707 Blagnac Cedex, France. This information may be examined at