

section for a location to examine the regulatory evaluation.

### 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 FAA proposes to amend 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. The FAA amends § 39.13 by removing amendment 39–12297 (66 FR 34798, July 2, 2001) and adding the following new airworthiness directive (AD):

**Airbus:** Docket No. FAA–2004–18603; Directorate Identifier 2003–NM–14–AD.

#### Comments Due Date

(a) The Federal Aviation Administration must receive comments on this AD action by August 16, 2004.

#### Affected ADs

(b) This AD supersedes AD 2001–13–16, amendment 39–12297 (66 FR 34798, July 2, 2001).

#### Applicability

(c) This AD applies to Airbus Model A310, and A300 B4–600, B4–600R, C4 605R Variant F, and F4–600R (collectively called A300–600) series airplanes; certificated in any category; as listed in Airbus Service Bulletin A300–29–6050, Revision 02, dated April 16, 2003; or A310–29–2088, Revision 01, dated February 3, 2003.

#### Unsafe Condition

(d) This AD was prompted by the discovery of a rupture in the housing of one of the RAT ejection jacks installed as specified in the existing AD. We are issuing this AD to prevent rupture of the housing of the RAT ejection jack due to overpressure in the jack caused by overfilling the hydraulic fluid, and consequent failure of the RAT ejection jack. Failure of the ejection jack could result in a lack of hydraulic pressure or electrical power in an emergency.

#### Compliance

(e) You are responsible for having the actions required by this AD performed within the compliance times specified, unless the actions have already been done.

#### Requirements of AD 2001–13–16

##### Modification

(f) For airplanes on which Airbus Modification 12259 has not been accomplished: Within 34 months after August 6, 2001 (the effective date of AD

2001–13–16, amendment 39–12297), modify the RAT per Airbus Service Bulletin A310–29–2086, Revision 01 (for Model A310 series airplanes), or A300–29–6048, Revision 01 (for Model A300–600 series airplanes), both dated July 12, 2000, as applicable.

**Note 1:** Modification of the RAT accomplished prior to August 6, 2001, in accordance with Airbus Service Bulletin A310–29–2086 or A300–29–6048, both dated April 6, 2000, as applicable, is considered acceptable for compliance with the action specified in paragraph (f) of this AD.

#### Parts Installation

(g) As of August 6, 2001, no person may install on an airplane an ejection jack, part number 730820, unless it has been modified per paragraph (f) of this AD.

**Note 2:** Airbus Service Bulletin A310–29–2086 and A300–29–6048, both Revision 01, refer to Hamilton Sundstrand Service Bulletin No. ERPS03/04EJ–29–1, as an additional source of service information for accomplishment of the modification of the RAT and testing of the modified RAT.

#### New Requirements of This AD

##### Inspection

(h) Within 2,500 flight hours after the effective date of this AD: Inspect the RAT ejection jack to determine the part number (P/N), in accordance with the Accomplishment Instructions of the applicable Airbus Service Bulletin listed in Table 1 of this AD. If the P/N can be determined and is neither 772652 nor 772654, no further action is required by this paragraph.

TABLE 1.—SERVICE INFORMATION

For this airplane model and series—	Airbus service bulletin—
A300–600 .....	A300–29–6050, Revision 02, dated April 16, 2003.
A310 .....	A310–29–2088, Revision 01, dated February 3, 2003.

**Note 3:** Airbus Service Bulletins A300–29–6050 and A310–29–2088 refer to Hamilton Sundstrand Service Bulletin ERPS03/04EJ–29–2, dated May 8, 2002, as an additional source of service information for identifying subject RAT ejection jacks and performing the applicable related investigative and corrective actions.

##### Related Investigative and Corrective Actions (If Necessary)

(i) If the P/N on the RAT ejection jack is either 772652 or 772654, or if the P/N cannot be determined: Before further flight, accomplish all applicable related investigative and corrective actions in accordance with the Accomplishment Instructions of the applicable Airbus Service Bulletin listed in Table 1 of this AD.

##### Actions Accomplished Previously

(j) Inspections and related investigative and corrective actions done before the

effective date of this AD in accordance with Airbus Service Bulletin A300–29–6050 (for Model A300–600 series airplanes); or A310–29–2088 (for Model A310 series airplanes); both dated July 23, 2002; as applicable; are acceptable for compliance with the corresponding actions required by paragraphs (h) and (i) of this AD.

##### Alternative Methods of Compliance (AMOCs)

(k) The Manager, International Branch, ANM–116, Transport Airplane Directorate, FAA, has the authority to approve AMOCs for this AD, if requested in accordance with the procedures found in 14 CFR 39.19.

##### Related Information

(l) French airworthiness directive 2002–638(B), dated December 24, 2002, also addresses the subject of this AD.

Issued in Renton, Washington, on July 8, 2004.

**Kevin M. Mullin,**

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

[FR Doc. 04–16031 Filed 7–14–04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910–13–P

## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

### Federal Aviation Administration

#### 14 CFR Part 39

[Docket No. FAA–2004–18601; Directorate Identifier 2004–NM–34–AD]

RIN 2120–AA64

### Airworthiness Directives; Boeing Model 747–100, –200B, –200F, –200C, –100B, –300, –100B SUD, –400, –400D, –400F, and 747SR Series Airplanes

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

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

**SUMMARY:** The FAA proposes to adopt a new airworthiness directive (AD) for certain Boeing Model 747 series airplanes. This proposed AD would require a one-time inspection for discrepancies of the frame web and inner chords on the forward edge frame of the number 5 main entry door cutout, and related corrective action. This proposed AD is prompted by a report of cracking of the frame web and inner chords on the forward edge frame of the number 5 main entry door. We are proposing this AD to find and fix discrepancies of the frame web and inner chords, which could result in cracking, subsequent severing of the frame, and consequent rapid depressurization of the airplane.

**DATES:** We must receive comments on this proposed AD by August 30, 2004.

**ADDRESSES:** Use one of the following addresses to submit comments on this proposed AD.

- *DOT Docket Web site:* Go to <http://dms.dot.gov> and follow the instructions for sending your comments electronically.

- *Government-wide rulemaking Web site:* Go to <http://www.regulations.gov> and follow the instructions for sending your comments electronically.

- Mail: Docket Management Facility, U.S. Department of Transportation, 400 Seventh Street SW., Nassif Building, room PL-401, Washington, DC 20590.

- By fax: (202) 493-2251.

- Hand Delivery: room PL-401 on the plaza level of the Nassif Building, 400 Seventh Street SW., Washington, DC, between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays.

You can get the service information identified in this proposed AD from Boeing Commercial Airplanes, P.O. Box 3707, Seattle, Washington 98124-2207.

You can examine the contents of this AD docket on the Internet at <http://dms.dot.gov>, or at the Docket Management Facility, U.S. Department of Transportation, 400 Seventh Street SW., room PL-401, on the plaza level of the Nassif Building, Washington, DC.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Ivan Li, Aerospace Engineer, Airframe Branch, ANM-120S, FAA, Seattle Aircraft Certification Office, 1601 Lind Avenue, SW., Renton, Washington 98055-4056; telephone (425) 917-6437; fax (425) 917-6590.

#### **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

##### **Docket Management System (DMS)**

The FAA has implemented new procedures for maintaining AD dockets electronically. As of May 17, 2004, new AD actions are posted on DMS and assigned a docket number. We track each action and assign a corresponding directorate identifier. The DMS AD docket number is in the form "Docket No. FAA-2004-99999." The Transport Airplane Directorate identifier is in the form "Directorate Identifier 2004-NM-999-AD." Each DMS AD docket also lists the directorate identifier ("Old Docket Number") as a cross-reference for searching purposes.

##### **Comments Invited**

We invite you to submit any written relevant data, views, or arguments regarding this proposed AD. Send your comments to an address listed under **ADDRESSES**. Include "Docket No. FAA-2004-18601; Directorate Identifier 2004-NM-34-AD" in the subject line of your comments. We specifically invite comments on the overall regulatory,

economic, environmental, and energy aspects of the proposed AD. We will consider all comments submitted by the closing date and may amend the proposed AD in light of those comments.

We will post all comments we receive, without change, to <http://dms.dot.gov>, including any personal information you provide. We will also post a report summarizing each substantive verbal contact with FAA personnel concerning this proposed AD. Using the search function of that website, anyone can find and read the comments in any of our dockets, including the name of the individual who sent the comment (or signed the comment on behalf of an association, business, labor union, etc.). You can review DOT's complete Privacy Act Statement in the **Federal Register** published on April 11, 2000 (65 FR 19477-78), or you can visit <http://dms.dot.gov>.

We are reviewing the writing style we currently use in regulatory documents. We are interested in your comments on whether the style of this document is clear, and your suggestions to improve the clarity of our communications that affect you. You can get more information about plain language at <http://www.faa.gov/language> and <http://www.plainlanguage.gov>.

##### **Examining the Docket**

You can examine the AD docket in person at the Docket Management Facility office between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays. The Docket Management Facility office (telephone (800) 647-5227) is located on the plaza level of the Nassif Building at the DOT street address stated in the **ADDRESSES** section. Comments will be available in the AD docket shortly after the DMS receives them.

##### **Discussion**

We have received a report of cracking of the frame web and inner chords at body station (BS) 2231, stringer 26L, on a Model 747 series airplane. The service history shows that both chords (forward and aft) and the web on the forward edge frame of the number 5 main entry door (MED) cutout were severed. The inboard chord of the number 5 MED lower main sill goes through a cutout in the BS 2231 frame at stringer 26. Investigation revealed that, during production, the inboard chord of the lower main sill of the door can rub against the BS 2231 frame. Such rubbing can cause nicks, scratches and/or gouges in the frame inner chords and web, and subsequent cracking. Cracks in the inner

chords and web could extend and fully sever the frame, which could result in rapid depressurization of the airplane.

##### **Related AD**

On July 26, 2001, we issued AD 2001-16-02, amendment 39-12370 (66 FR 41440, August 8, 2001), which is applicable to certain Boeing Model 747 series airplanes. That AD requires repetitive inspections to find cracking of the frame web, strap, inner chords, and inner chord angle of the forward edge frame of the number 5 main entry door cutout, and repair if necessary. The actions specified by that AD are intended to find and fix such cracking, which could result in severing of the frame, inability of the edge frame to react door stop loads, and consequent rapid depressurization of the airplane.

##### **Relevant Service Information**

We have reviewed and approved Boeing Alert Service Bulletin 747-53A2494, dated September 18, 2003, which describes procedures for a one-time detailed visual inspection for discrepancies (nicks, scratches, and/or gouges) of the frame web and inner chords (forward and aft) of the forward edge frame of the number 5 main entry door cutout, and related corrective action. The corrective action includes a surface high frequency eddy current inspection for cracking on the frame inner chords of BS 2231, rework of any discrepancies, and repair of any cracking. The service bulletin references certain 747 Structural Repair Manuals for rework/repair procedures. The service bulletin also recommends contacting the manufacturer for repair instructions. The service bulletin indicates that if the repetitive inspections recommended in Boeing Alert Service Bulletin 747-53A2450, Revision 2, dated January 4, 2001 (required by AD 2001-16-02) are being done, the one-time inspection is not necessary. We have determined that accomplishing the actions specified in the service bulletin will adequately address the unsafe condition.

##### **FAA's Determination and Requirements of the Proposed AD**

We have evaluated all pertinent information and identified an unsafe condition that is likely to exist or develop on other airplanes of this same type design. Therefore, we are proposing this AD, which would require a one-time inspection for discrepancies of the frame web and inner chords of the forward edge frame of the number 5 main entry door cutout, and related corrective action. The proposed AD would require you to use the service

information described previously to perform these actions, except as discussed under “Differences Between the Proposed AD and Service Bulletin.” Accomplishment of the actions required by this proposed AD would not terminate the repetitive inspections required by AD 2001–16–02.

#### Differences Between the Proposed AD and Service Bulletin

The service bulletin refers to a “detailed visual inspection” for discrepancies of the frame web and inner chords. We have determined that the procedures in the service bulletin should be described as a “detailed inspection.” We have included Note 1 to define this type of inspection.

As discussed previously, the referenced service bulletin specifies that if the repetitive inspections recommended in Boeing Alert Service Bulletin 747–53A2450 (and required by AD 2001–16–02) are currently being done, the one-time inspection required by this proposed AD is not necessary. However, we have determined that the repetitive inspections required by AD 2001–16–02 would not address the unsafe condition identified in this proposed AD. The one-time inspection required by this proposed AD is to find nicks, scratches, and/or gouges that can lead to cracking, and repair of those discrepancies. Therefore, we have determined that the proposed one-time inspection is required prior to or concurrently with the next inspection required by AD 2001–16–02.

The referenced service bulletin also specifies that operators may contact the manufacturer for disposition of certain repair conditions, but this proposed AD would require operators to repair those conditions per a method approved by the Manager of the Seattle Aircraft Certification Office of the FAA, or per data meeting the type certification basis of the airplane approved by a Boeing Company Designated Engineering Representative who has been authorized by the FAA to make such findings.

#### Costs of Compliance

This proposed AD would affect about 220 airplanes of U.S. registry and 1,055 airplanes worldwide. The proposed inspection would take about 2 work hours per airplane, at an average labor rate of \$65 per work hour. Based on these figures, the estimated cost of the inspection proposed by this AD for U.S. operators is \$28,600, or \$130 per airplane.

#### Regulatory Findings

We have determined that this proposed AD would not have federalism

implications under Executive Order 13132. This proposed AD 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.

For the reasons discussed above, I certify that the 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. 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.

We prepared a regulatory evaluation of the estimated costs to comply with this proposed AD. See the **ADDRESSES** section for a location to examine the regulatory evaluation.

#### 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 FAA proposes to amend 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. The FAA amends § 39.13 by adding the following new airworthiness directive (AD):

**Boeing:** Docket No. FAA–2004–18601; Directorate Identifier 2004–NM–34–AD.

#### Comments Due Date

(a) The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) must receive comments on this AD action by August 30, 2004.

#### Affected ADs

(b) Accomplishing this AD will not terminate the repetitive inspections required by AD 2001–16–02, amendment 39–12370.

#### Applicability

(c) This AD applies to certain Model 747–100, –200B, –200F, –200C, –100B, –300, –100B SUD, –400, –400D, –400F, and 747SR series airplanes; line numbers 1 through 1333 inclusive; certificated in any category.

#### Unsafe Condition

(d) This AD was prompted by a report of cracking of the frame web and inner chords on the forward edge frame of the number 5 main entry door. We are issuing this AD to

find and fix discrepancies of the frame web and inner chords, which could result in cracking, subsequent severing of the frame, and consequent rapid depressurization of the airplane.

#### Compliance

(e) You are responsible for having the actions required by this AD performed within the compliance times specified, unless the actions have already been done.

#### One-Time Inspection

(f) For airplanes on which the repetitive inspections required by AD 2001–16–02, amendment 39–12370, have not been done as of the effective date of this AD: Do a one-time detailed inspection for discrepancies (nicks, scratches, and/or gouges) of the frame web and inner chords (forward and aft) of the forward edge frame of the number 5 main entry door cutout, by doing all the applicable actions by using the Accomplishment Instructions of Boeing Alert Service Bulletin 747–53A2494, dated September 18, 2003. Do the inspection at the latest of the times specified in paragraphs (f)(1), (f)(2), and (f)(3) of this AD.

(1) Before the accumulation of 10,000 total flight cycles.

(2) Within 1,500 flight cycles after the effective date of this AD.

(3) Within 24 months after the effective date of this AD.

(g) For airplanes on which the repetitive inspections required by AD 2001–16–02, amendment 39–12370, have been done as of the effective date of this AD: Do the one-time inspection required by paragraph (f) of this AD before or concurrently with the next inspection required by AD 2001–16–02.

**Note 1:** For the purposes of this AD, a detailed inspection is: “An intensive visual examination of a specific structural area, system, installation, or assembly to detect damage, failure, or irregularity. Available lighting is normally supplemented with a direct source of good lighting at intensity deemed appropriate by the inspector. Inspection aids such as mirror, magnifying lenses, etc., may be used. Surface cleaning and elaborate access procedures may be required.”

#### Related Corrective Action

(h) If any discrepancy is found during the inspection required by paragraph (f) or (g) of this AD: Before further flight, do all the related corrective actions by using the Accomplishment Instructions of Boeing Alert Service Bulletin 747–53A2494, dated September 18, 2003. Where the service bulletin specifies contacting the manufacturer for disposition of certain repair conditions, repair before further flight per a method approved by the Manager, Seattle Aircraft Certification Office (ACO), FAA; or per data meeting the type certification basis of the airplane approved by a Boeing Company Designated Engineering Representative who has been authorized by the Manager, Seattle ACO, to make such findings. For a repair method to be approved, the approval must specifically refer to this AD.

### Alternative Methods of Compliance (AMOCs)

(i)(1) The Manager, Seattle ACO, has the authority to approve AMOCs for this AD, if requested in accordance with the procedures found in 14 CFR 39.19.

(2) An AMOC that provides an acceptable level of safety may be used for any repair required by this AD, if it is approved by a Boeing Company Designated Engineering Representative who has been authorized by the Manager, Seattle ACO, to make those findings. For a repair method to be approved, the approval must specifically refer to this AD.

Issued in Renton, Washington, on July 8, 2004.

**Kevin M. Mullin,**

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

[FR Doc. 04-16030 Filed 7-14-04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-13-P

## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

### Federal Aviation Administration

#### 14 CFR Part 39

[Docket No. FAA-2004-18602; Directorate Identifier 2003-NM-160-AD]

RIN 2120-AA64

#### **Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Model A300 B2 and B4 Series Airplanes; and Model A300 B4-600, B4-600R, C4-605R Variant F, and F4-600R (Collectively Called A300-600) Series Airplanes**

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

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

**SUMMARY:** The FAA proposes to adopt a new airworthiness directive (AD) for all Airbus Model A300 B2 and B4 series airplanes; and certain Airbus Model A300 B4-600, B4-600R, C4-605R Variant F, and F4-600R (collectively called A300-600) series airplanes. This proposed AD would require an inspection of the skin panels of the wing slats for damage and certain repairs, and applicable related investigative/corrective actions if necessary. This proposed AD is prompted by the results of an engineering evaluation that revealed that several repairs and some allowable damage limits specified in the structural repair manuals do not provide adequate static and/or fatigue strength for repaired wing slats. We are proposing this AD to find and fix previously done repairs of the wing slats that have inadequate static and/or fatigue strength, which, if not corrected, could result in loss of the slats and

consequent reduced controllability of the airplane.

**DATES:** We must receive comments on this proposed AD by August 16, 2004.

**ADDRESSES:** Use one of the following addresses to submit comments on this proposed AD.

- *DOT Docket Web site:* Go to <http://dms.dot.gov> and follow the instructions for sending your comments electronically.

- *Government-wide rulemaking Web site:* Go to <http://www.regulations.gov> and follow the instructions for sending your comments electronically.

- *Mail:* Docket Management Facility, U.S. Department of Transportation, 400 Seventh Street SW., Nassif Building, room PL-401, Washington, DC 20590.

- *By fax:* (202) 493-2251.

- *Hand Delivery:* room PL-401 on the plaza level of the Nassif Building, 400 Seventh Street SW, Washington, DC, between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays.

You can get the service information identified in this proposed AD from Airbus, 1 Rond Point Maurice Bellonte, 31707 Blagnac Cedex, France.

You may examine the contents of this AD docket on the Internet at <http://dms.dot.gov>, or at the Docket Management Facility, U.S. Department of Transportation, 400 Seventh Street SW., room PL-401, on the plaza level of the Nassif Building, Washington, DC.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Tim Backman, Aerospace Engineer, International Branch, ANM-116, FAA, Transport Airplane Directorate, 1601 Lind Avenue, SW., Renton, Washington 98055-4056; telephone (425) 227-2797; fax (425) 227-1149.

#### **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

##### **Docket Management System (DMS)**

The FAA has implemented new procedures for maintaining AD dockets electronically. As of May 17, 2004, new AD actions are posted on DMS and assigned a docket number. We track each action and assign a corresponding directorate identifier. The DMS AD docket number is in the form "Docket No. FAA-2004-99999." The Transport Airplane Directorate identifier is in the form "Directorate Identifier 2004-NM-999-AD." Each DMS AD docket also lists the directorate identifier ("Old Docket Number") as a cross-reference for searching purposes.

##### **Comments Invited**

We invite you to submit any written relevant data, views, or arguments regarding this proposed AD. Send your comments to an address listed under **ADDRESSES**. Include "Docket No. FAA-

2004-18602; Directorate Identifier 2003-NM-160-AD" at the beginning of your comments. We specifically invite comments on the overall regulatory, economic, environmental, and energy aspects of the proposed AD. We will consider all comments submitted by the closing date and may amend the proposed AD in light of those comments.

We will post all comments we receive, without change, to <http://dms.dot.gov>, including any personal information you provide. We will also post a report summarizing each substantive verbal contact with FAA personnel concerning this proposed AD. Using the search function of our docket website, anyone can find and read the comments in any of our dockets, including the name of the individual who sent the comment (or signed the comment on behalf of an association, business, labor union, etc.). You may review the DOT's complete Privacy Act Statement in the **Federal Register** published on April 11, 2000 (65 FR 19477-78), or you may visit <http://dms.dot.gov>.

We are reviewing the writing style we currently use in regulatory documents. We are interested in your comments on whether the style of this document is clear, and your suggestions to improve the clarity of our communications that affect you. You can get more information about plain language at <http://www.faa.gov/language> and <http://www.plainlanguage.gov>.

##### **Examining the Docket**

You may examine the AD docket in person at the Docket Management Facility office between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays. The Docket Management Facility office (telephone (800) 647-5227) is located on the plaza level of the Nassif Building at the DOT street address stated in the **ADDRESSES** section. Comments will be available in the AD docket shortly after the DMS receives them.

##### **Discussion**

The Direction Générale de l'Aviation Civile (DGAC), which is the airworthiness authority for France, notified us that an unsafe condition may exist on all Airbus Model A300 B2 and B4 series airplanes; and certain Airbus Model A300 B4-600, B4-600R, C4-605R Variant F, and F4-600R (collectively called A300-600) series airplanes. The DGAC advises that the results of an engineering evaluation revealed that several repairs and some allowable damage limits specified in the structural repair manuals do not provide