Airbus Model A310 series airplanes; and Model A300 B4–600, B4–600R, and F4–600R Series Airplanes, and Model C4 605R Variant F Airplanes (Collectively Called A300–600)

AGENCY: Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), DOT.

ACTION: Final rule.

SUMMARY: The FAA is adopting a new airworthiness directive (AD) for certain Airbus Model A310 series airplanes; and Model A300 B4–600, B4–600R, and F4–600R series airplanes, and Model C4 605R Variant F airplanes (collectively called A300–600). This AD requires relocating contactor 9DG located at rack (relay box) 107VU and adding protective sleeves to the two wire (cable) looms near the door hinge of rack 107VU. This AD is prompted by reports that interference was noticed during production between the wire looms located near the door hinge of rack 107VU and the terminals of contactor 9DG. We are issuing this AD to prevent possible short circuits in the wire looms supplying the fuel pump systems and the pitot probe heating system, which could lead to a possible loss of function of flight-critical systems and reduced controllability of the airplane.

DATES: This AD becomes effective February 11, 2005.

The incorporation by reference of certain publications listed in the AD is approved by the Director of the Federal Register as of February 11, 2005.

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Aviation Administration

14 CFR Part 39


RIN 2120–AA64

Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Model A310 Series Airplanes; and Model A300 B4–600, B4–600R, and F4–600R Series Airplanes, and Model C4 605R Variant F Airplanes (Collectively Called A300–600)


The AD docket contains the proposed AD, comments, and any final disposition. You can examine the AD docket on the Internet at http://dms.dot.gov, or in person at the Docket Management Facility, U.S. Department of Transportation, 400 Seventh Street SW., Room PL–401, Nassif Building, Washington, DC.

This docket number is FAA–2004–19527; the directorate identifier for this docket is 2004–NM–71–AD.
For the reasons discussed above, I certify that this AD:

(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) 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 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, Incorporation by reference, Safety.

Adoption of the Amendment

Accordingly, under the authority delegated to me by the Administrator, the FAA amends 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):

Docket No. FAA–2004–19527;
Directorate Identifier 2004–NM–71–AD.

Effective Date

(a) This AD becomes effective February 11, 2005.

Affected ADs

(b) None.

Applicability

(c) This AD applies to Airbus Model A310 series airplanes, as listed in Airbus Service Bulletin A310–24–2087, Revision 01, dated December 18, 2003; and Model A300 B4–600, B4–600R, and F4–600R series airplanes, and Model C4 605R Variant F airplanes (collectively called A300–600), as listed in Airbus Service Bulletin A300–24–6081, Revision 01, dated December 18, 2003; certified in any category.

Unsafe Condition

(d) This AD was prompted by reports that interference was noticed during production between two wire (cable) looms located near the door hinge of rack (relay box) 107VU and the terminals of contactor 9DG located at rack 107VU. We are issuing this AD to prevent possible short circuits in the wire looms supplying the fuel pump systems and the pitot probe heating system, which could lead to a possible loss of function of flight-critical systems and reduced controllability 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.

Relocation of Contactator and Addition of Protective Sleeves

(f) Within 12 months after the effective date of this AD, relocate contactor 9DG located at rack 107VU and add protective sleeves to the two wire looms located at the door hinge of rack 107VU, by doing all actions in accordance with the Accomplishment Instructions of Airbus Service Bulletin A310–24–2087, Revision 01 (for Model A310 series airplanes); or Service Bulletin A300–24–6081, Revision 01 (for Model A300–600 series airplanes); both dated December 18, 2003; as applicable.

Actions Accomplished per Previous Issue of Service Bulletins

(g) Actions accomplished before the effective date of this AD in accordance with Airbus Service Bulletin A310–24–2087; or Airbus Service Bulletin A300–24–6081; both dated June 7, 2002; are considered acceptable for compliance with the corresponding actions specified in paragraph (f) of this AD.

Alternative Methods of Compliance (AMOCs)

(h) The Manager, International Branch, ANN–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

(i) French airworthiness directive F–2003–412, dated November 12, 2003, also addresses the subject of this AD.

Material Incorporated by Reference

(j) You must use the service information that is specified in Table 1 of this AD to perform the actions that are required by this AD, unless the AD specifies otherwise. The Director of the Federal Register approves the incorporation by reference of those documents in accordance with 5 U.S.C. 552(a) and 1 CFR part 51. For copies of the service information, contact Airbus, 1 Rond Maurice Bellonte, 31707 Blagnac Cedex, France. For information on the availability of this material at the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA), call (202) 741–6030, or go to http://www.archives.gov/federal_register/code_of_federal_regulations/ibr_locations.html. You may view the AD docket at the Docket Management Facility, U.S. Department of Transportation, 400 Seventh Street, SW., Room PL–401, Nassif Building, Washington, DC.

Table 1.—MATERIAL INCORPORATED BY REFERENCE

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Service bulletin</th>
<th>Revision level</th>
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AD requires a one-time inspection for airworthiness directive (AD) for certain Model 747 series airplanes. That action, published in the Federal Register on July 15, 2004 (69 FR 42365), proposed to 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.

Examining the Docket
The AD docket contains the proposed AD, comments, and any final disposition. You can examine the AD docket on the Internet at http://dms.dot.gov, or 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.

Comment
We provided the public the opportunity to participate in the development of this AD. We have considered the single comment that has been submitted on the proposed AD.

Request To Change Paragraph (g)
The commenter (the manufacturer) asks that paragraph (g) of the proposed AD be changed to read “For those 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, no further action is required.” The commenter states that the inspection required by AD 2001–16–02 (referred to as a related AD in the proposed AD) is a surface eddy current inspection and is more intensive than the detailed inspection specified in the proposed AD. The commenter notes that the repetitive inspections in AD 2001–16–02 adequately detect any cracking prior to loss of residual strength of the chord. The commenter adds that a nick or gouge does not affect the crack growth rate, so the safety concern in the proposed AD is addressed by the repetitive inspections.

We agree with the commenter. The repetitive inspections for cracking required by AD 2001–16–02 are more extensive than the one-time inspection required by this AD, and must be repeated at intervals not to exceed 3,000 flight cycles. Initiating those inspections will find cracking before it reaches critical length; therefore, the one-time inspection required by this AD is not necessary if the repetitive inspections are currently being done. For airplanes that are at or near the 10,000-flight-cycle threshold, and have not been inspected per AD 2001–16–02, the purpose of this AD is to close the gap between the compliance time for the initial inspection required by AD 2001–16–02 (before the accumulation of 16,000 total flight cycles) and the one-time inspection required by this AD. The AD requires that operators inspect the airplane at or before 10,000 total flight cycles, or within the specified grace period. Therefore, paragraph (g) of this AD has been changed to specify that operators currently accomplishing the repetitive inspections required by AD 2001–16–02 are not required to accomplish the one-time inspection required by this AD.

Conclusion
We have carefully reviewed the available data, including the comment that has been submitted, and determined that air safety and the public interest require adopting the AD with the change described previously. We have determined that the change will neither increase the economic burden on any operator nor increase the scope of the AD.

Costs of Compliance
There are about 1,055 airplanes worldwide of the affected design, this AD affects about 220 airplanes of U.S. registry. The inspection takes 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 required by this AD for U.S. operators is $28,600, or $130 per airplane.

Authority for This Rulemaking
The FAA’s authority to issue rules regarding aviation safety is found in Title 49 of the United States Code. Subtitle I, Section 106, describes the authority of the FAA Administrator. Subtitle VII, Aviation Programs, describes in more detail the scope of the agency’s authority.

This rulemaking is promulgated under the authority described in