

Proposed Rules

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This section of the FEDERAL REGISTER contains notices to the public of the proposed issuance of rules and regulations. The purpose of these notices is to give interested persons an opportunity to participate in the rule making prior to the adoption of the final rules.

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Aviation Administration

14 CFR Part 39

[Docket No. FAA-2006-24261; Directorate Identifier 2006-NE-12-AD]

RIN 2120-AA64

Airworthiness Directives; General Electric Company Aircraft Engines (GEAE) CT7-8A Turboshaft Engines

AGENCY: Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), Department of Transportation (DOT).

ACTION: Notice of proposed rulemaking (NPRM).

SUMMARY: The FAA proposes to supersede an existing airworthiness directive (AD) for certain GEAE CT7-8A turboshaft engines. That AD currently requires initial and repetitive inspections of the electrical chip detectors for the No. 3 bearing. This proposed AD would require removing certain GEAE CT7-8A turboshaft engines within 6,200 cycles-since-new. This proposed AD results from investigation for the root causes of two failures of the No. 3 bearing. We are proposing this AD to prevent failure of the No. 3 bearing due to contamination by Aluminum Oxide, which could result in a possible dual in-flight shutdown of the engines.

DATES: We must receive any comments on this proposed AD by May 19, 2008.

ADDRESSES: Use one of the following addresses to comment on this proposed AD.

- *Federal eRulemaking Portal:* Go to <http://www.regulations.gov> and follow the instructions for sending your comments electronically.

- *Mail:* Docket Management Facility, U.S. Department of Transportation, 1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE., West Building Ground Floor, Room W12-140, Washington, DC 20590-0001.

- *Hand Delivery:* Deliver to Mail address above between 9 a.m. and 5

p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays.

- *Fax:* (202) 493-2251.

Contact General Electric Aircraft Engines CT7 Series Turboprop Engines, 1000 Western Ave., Lynn, MA 01910; telephone (781) 594-3140, fax (781) 594-4805, for the service information identified in this proposed AD.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Christopher Richards, Aerospace Engineer, Engine Certification Office, FAA, Engine and Propeller Directorate, 12 New England Executive Park, Burlington, MA 01803; e-mail: christopher.j.richards@faa.gov; telephone (731) 238-7133; fax (781) 238-7199.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Comments Invited

We invite you to send any written relevant data, views, or arguments regarding this proposal. Send your comments to an address listed under **ADDRESSES**. Include "Docket No. FAA-2006-24261; Directorate Identifier 2006-NE-12-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 received 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://www.regulations.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 the DMS Web site, 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://www.regulations.gov>.

Examining the AD Docket

You may examine the AD docket on the Internet at <http://www.regulations.gov>; or in person at the Docket Operations office between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday,

except Federal holidays. The AD docket contains this proposed AD, the regulatory evaluation, any comments received, and other information. The street address for the Docket Operations office (telephone (800) 647-5527) is the same as the Mail address provided in the **ADDRESSES** section. Comments will be available in the AD docket shortly after receipt.

Discussion

The FAA proposes to amend 14 CFR part 39 by superseding AD 2006-06-51, Amendment 39-14566 (71 FR 19627, April 17, 2006). That AD requires:

- Within 25 hours time-in-service after the effective date of that AD, inspecting the electrical chip detector assembly.
- Staggering the inspection intervals so the chip detectors on both engines on the same helicopter are not inspected at the same time.
- Thereafter, within 25 hours time-since-last inspection, performing a repetitive inspection, and
- If the chip detector assembly contains any bearing material, replacing the engine.

That AD was the result of two failures of the No. 3 bearing in GEAE CT7-8A turboshaft engines. That condition, if not corrected, could result in a possible dual in-flight shutdown of the engines.

Actions Since AD 2006-06-51 Was Issued

Since we issued that AD, GEAE has developed new procedures for flushing Aluminum Oxide hard particle contamination from the air cavity of the engine structure's front frame after the manufacturing process and for assembling the No. 3 bearing to the engine. Based on that new flushing procedure, we are proposing to:

- Delete the requirements to inspect the electrical chip detector, and
- Require removing any engine that has a serial number (SN) listed in Table 1 of this proposed AD unless the front frame was flushed and the No. 3 bearing replaced, and
- Prohibit installing any engine that has a SN listed in Table 1 of this proposed AD unless the front frame was flushed and the No. 3 bearing replaced.

Relevant Service Information

We have reviewed and approved the technical contents of GEAE Service Bulletin (SB) CT7-8 S/B 72-0017, dated

October 18, 2007, that describes procedures for flushing the engine front frame and replacing the No. 3 bearing.

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 products of this same type design. For that reason, we are proposing this AD, which would require removing certain GEAE CT7-8A turboshaft engines, listed by SN in this proposed AD, from service within 6,200 cycles-since-new, and, after the effective date of the proposed AD, would prohibit installing certain GEAE CT7-8A turboshaft engines, listed by SN in this proposed AD.

Costs of Compliance

We estimate that this proposed AD would affect 29 engines installed on helicopters of U.S. registry. We also estimate that it would take about 66.0 work-hours per engine to perform the proposed actions, and that the average labor rate is \$80 per work-hour. Required parts would cost about \$3,476 per engine. Based on these figures, we estimate the total cost of the proposed AD to U.S. operators to be \$253,924

Authority for This Rulemaking

Title 49 of the United States Code specifies the FAA's authority to issue rules on aviation safety. 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.

We are issuing this rulemaking under the authority described in Subtitle VII, Part A, Subpart III, Section 44701, "General requirements." Under that section, Congress charges the FAA with promoting safe flight of civil aircraft in air commerce by prescribing regulations for practices, methods, and procedures the Administrator finds necessary for safety in air commerce. This regulation is within the scope of that authority because it addresses an unsafe condition that is likely to exist or develop on products identified in this rulemaking action.

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 AD:

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. Would 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

Under the authority delegated to me by the Administrator, the Federal Aviation Administration 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 39-14566 (71 FR 19627, April 17, 2006) and by adding a new airworthiness directive to read as follows:

General Electric Company Aircraft Engines:

Docket No. FAA-2006-24261;
Directorate Identifier 2006-NE-12-AD.

Comments Due Date

- (a) The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) must receive comments on this airworthiness directive (AD) action by May 19, 2008.

Affected ADs

- (b) This AD supersedes AD 2006-06-51, Amendment 39-14566.

Applicability

- (c) This AD applies to General Electric Company Aircraft Engines (GEAE) CT7-8A turboshaft engines that have a serial number (SN) listed in Table 1 of this AD. These engines are installed on, but not limited to, Sikorsky S92 helicopters.

TABLE 1.—AFFECTED ENGINES BY SERIAL NUMBER

Engine Serial No.		
947205	947228	947254
947206	947230	947255
947207	947232	947256
947208	947233	947258
947209	947235	947260
947210	947238	947261
947211	947240	947262
947212	947241	947263
947214	947242	947265
947215	947243	947266
947217	947244	947274
947218	947245	947277
947219	947247	947278
947220	947248	947279
947221	947249	947280
947223	947250	947284
947225	947253	947285

Unsafe Condition

(d) This AD results from investigation for the root causes of two failures of the No. 3 bearing. We are issuing this AD to prevent failure of the No. 3 bearing due to contamination by Aluminum Oxide, which could result in a possible dual in-flight shutdown of the engines.

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.

(f) No further action is required if:

- (1) Your engine has an SN that is not listed in Table 1 of this AD, or
- (2) Your engine has an SN listed in Table 1 of this AD, but the engine log specifies that the front frame was flushed and the No. 3 bearing was replaced.

Engines With SNs Listed in Table 1 of This AD

(g) For engines with an SN listed in Table 1 of this AD, within 6,200 cycles-since-new, remove engine from service.

Installation Prohibition

(h) After the effective date of this AD, do not install any engine that has an SN listed in Table 1 of this AD unless the front frame was flushed and the No. 3 bearing was replaced. GEAE Service Bulletin (SB) CT7-8 S/B 72-0017, dated October 18, 2007, contains information on flushing the front frame and replacing the No. 3 bearing.

Alternative Methods of Compliance

(i) The Manager, Engine Certification Office, FAA, has the authority to approve alternative methods of compliance for this AD if requested using the procedures found in 14 CFR 39.19.

Related Information

(j) GEAE SB No. CT7-8 S/B 72-0017, dated October 18, 2007, pertains to the subject of this AD.

(k) Contact Christopher Richards, Aerospace Engineer, Engine Certification Office, FAA, Engine and Propeller Directorate, 12 New England Executive Park,

Burlington, MA 01803; e-mail: christopher.j.richards@faa.gov; telephone (731) 238-7133; fax (781) 238-7199, for more information about this AD.

Issued in Burlington, Massachusetts, on March 12, 2008.

Robert J. Ganley,

Acting Manager, Engine and Propeller Directorate, Aircraft Certification Service.

[FR Doc. E8-5492 Filed 3-18-08; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-13-P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Aviation Administration

14 CFR Part 39

[Docket No. FAA-2008-0327; Directorate Identifier 2007-SW-21-AD]

RIN 2120-AA64

Airworthiness Directives; Agusta S.p.a. Model A109E and A119 Helicopters

AGENCY: Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), DOT.

ACTION: Notice of proposed rulemaking (NPRM).

SUMMARY: We propose to adopt a new airworthiness directive (AD) for the specified helicopters. This proposed AD results from a mandatory continuing airworthiness information (MCAI) AD originated by an aviation authority of another country to identify and correct an unsafe condition on an aviation product. The European Aviation Safety Agency (EASA), the Technical Agent for Italy, with which we have a bilateral agreement, states in the MCAI:

Some cases of interference between the hydraulic pipe, P/N 109-0761-65-103, and the tail rotor control rod assembly have been detected on Model A109E helicopters.

The interference, if not corrected, could damage the hydraulic pipes and lead to the loss of the hydraulic system No. 1 in flight. This AD * * * is issued to extend the same mandatory corrective actions to A119 model due to its design similarity with A109E.

The proposed AD would require actions that are intended to address this unsafe condition.

DATES: We must receive comments on this proposed AD by April 18, 2008.

ADDRESSES: You may send comments by any of the following methods:

- *Federal eRulemaking Portal:* Go to <http://www.regulations.gov>. Follow the instructions for submitting comments.

- *Fax:* 202-493-2251.

- *Mail:* U.S. Department of Transportation, Docket Operations, M-30, West Building Ground Floor, Room W12-140, 1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE., Washington, DC 20590.

- *Hand Delivery:* U.S. Department of Transportation, Docket Operations, M-30, West Building Ground Floor, Room W12-140, 1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE., Washington, DC 20590, between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays.

You may get the service information identified in this proposed AD from Agusta, 21017 Cascina Costa di Samarate (VA) Italy, Via Giovanni Agusta 520, telephone 39 (0331) 229111, fax 39 (0331) 229605-222595.

Examining the AD Docket: You may examine the AD docket on the Internet at <http://www.regulations.gov> or in person at the Docket Operations office between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays. The AD docket contains this proposed AD, the economic evaluation, any comments received, and other information. The street address for the Docket Operations office (telephone (800) 647-5527) is in the **ADDRESSES** section. Comments will be available in the AD docket shortly after receipt.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Uday Garadi, Aviation Safety Engineer, FAA, Rotorcraft Directorate, Regulations and Guidance Group, Fort Worth, Texas 76193-0110, telephone (817) 222-5123, fax (817) 222-5961.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Streamlined Issuance of AD

The FAA is implementing a new process for streamlining the issuance of ADs related to MCAI. This streamlined process will allow us to adopt MCAI safety requirements in a more efficient manner and will reduce safety risks to the public. This process continues to follow all FAA AD issuance processes to meet legal, economic, Administrative Procedure Act, and **Federal Register** requirements. We also continue to meet our technical decisionmaking responsibilities to identify and correct unsafe conditions on U.S.-certificated products.

This proposed AD references the MCAI and related service information that we considered in forming the engineering basis to correct the unsafe condition. The proposed AD contains text copied from the MCAI and for this reason might not follow our plain language principles.

Comments Invited

We invite you to send any written relevant data, views, or arguments about this proposed AD. Send your comments to an address listed under the **ADDRESSES** section. Include "Docket No. FAA-2008-0327; Directorate Identifier 2007-SW-21-AD" at the beginning of

your comments. We specifically invite comments on the overall regulatory, economic, environmental, and energy aspects of this proposed AD. We will consider all comments received by the closing date and may amend this proposed AD based on those comments.

We will post all comments we receive, without change, to <http://www.regulations.gov>, including any personal information you provide. We will also post a report summarizing each substantive verbal contact we receive about this proposed AD.

Discussion

The European Aviation Safety Agency (EASA), which is the Technical Agent for the Member States of the European Community, has issued an MCAI in the form of EASA AD No. 2007-0231, dated August 23, 2007 (referred to after this as "the MCAI"), to correct an unsafe condition for these Italian-certificated products. The MCAI states:

Some cases of interference between the hydraulic pipe, P/N 109-0761-65-103, and the tail rotor control rod assembly have been detected on Model A109E helicopters.

The interference, if not corrected, could damage the hydraulic pipes and lead to the loss of the hydraulic system No. 1 in flight. This AD * * * is issued to extend the same mandatory corrective actions to A119 model due to its design similarity with A109E.

You may obtain further information by examining the MCAI and service information in the AD docket.

Relevant Service Information

Agusta has issued Bollettino Tecnico (BT) No. 109EP-73, dated December 4, 2006, applicable to Model A109E helicopters, and BT No. 119-22, dated July 11, 2007, applicable to Model A119 helicopters. The actions described in the MCAI are intended to correct the same unsafe condition as that identified in the service information.

FAA's Determination and Requirements of This Proposed AD

These model helicopters have been approved by the aviation authority of Italy, and are approved for operation in the United States. Pursuant to our bilateral agreement with this State of Design Authority, we have been notified of the unsafe condition described in the MCAI and service information. We are proposing this AD because we evaluated all pertinent information and determined an unsafe condition exists and is likely to exist or develop on other products of these same type designs.

Differences Between This AD and the MCAI or Service Information

We have reviewed the MCAI and related service information and, in