(i) If the cylinder pressure gauge reads below 60 pounds per square inch, determine if the unacceptable pressure is due to a cracked cylinder.

(ii) To check the cylinder, apply a 2 percent soapy water solution to the side of the leaking cylinder.

(iii) If you see air bubbles, indicating air leakage, on the side of the cylinder head, or near the head-to-cylinder interface, replace the cylinder assembly before further flight.

(b) Thereafter, repeat the cylinder visual inspections and compression tests within 50 FH time-since-last inspection (TSLI) until the cylinders reach their time-between-overhaul (TBO) limits specified in Teledyne Continental Aircraft Engine Service Information Letter SIL98–9A, Revision A, dated March 26, 2003.

Replacing SAP Cylinder Assemblies

(i) For TCM IO–520, TSIO–520, and IO–550 series reciprocating engines with SAP investment cast cylinder assemblies, P/Ns SA52000–A1, SA52000–A20P, SA52000–A21P, SA52000–A22P, SA52000–A23P, SA55000–A1, or SA55000–A20P, replace the SAP cylinder head assembly at the first TBO after the effective date of this AD. Engines that were already overhauled may continue in service until the first TBO after the effective date of this AD.

Prohibition Against Installing Certain P/N SAP Cylinder Assemblies


Alternative Methods of Compliance

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

Special Flight Permits

(l) Under 14 CFR part 39.23, we will not approve special flight permits for this AD for engines that have failed the visual inspection or the 50 hour periodic cylinder assembly compression test required by this AD.

Related Information


(n) Contact Peter W. Hakala, Aerospace Engineer, Special Certification Office, FAA, Rotorcraft Directorate, 2601 Meacham Blvd., Fort Worth, TX 76137; e-mail: peter.w.hakala@faa.gov; telephone (817) 222–5145; fax (817) 222–5785, for more information about this AD.

Material Incorporated by Reference

(o) You must use Teledyne Continental Aircraft Engine Service Information Letter SIL98–9A, Revision A, dated March 28, 2003 to determine the times-between-overhaul required by this AD. The Director of the Federal Register approved the incorporation by reference of this service information in accordance with 5 U.S.C. 552(a) and 1 CFR part 51. Contact Teledyne Continental Motors, Inc., P.O. Box 90, Mobile, Alabama; telephone (251) 438–3411, or go to: http://www.genuinecontinental.aero, for a copy of this service information. You may review copies at the FAA, New England Region, 12 New England Executive Park, Burlington, MA; or at the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA). For information on the availability of this material at NARA, call 202–741–6036, or go to: http://www.archives.gov/federal-register/cfr/ibr-locations.html.

Issued in Burlington, Massachusetts, on July 23, 2009.

Peter A. White,
Assistant Manager, Engine and Propeller Directorate, Aircraft Certification Service.

[FR Doc. E9–18220 Filed 8–4–09; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 4910–13–P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Aviation Administration

14 CFR Part 39


RIN 2120–AA64

Airworthiness Directives: Agusta S.p.A. Model AB139 and AW139 Helicopters

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

ACTION: Final rule.

SUMMARY: We are adopting a new airworthiness directive (AD) for the specified Agusta S.p.A. (Agusta) Model AB139 and AW139 helicopters. This AD results from mandatory continuing airworthiness information (MCAI) originated by an aviation authority of another country to identify and correct an unsafe condition on an aviation product. The aviation authority of Italy, with which we have a bilateral agreement, states in the MCAI that during the installation of a fire extinguisher bottle on a new helicopter, it was found that the electrical receptacle/connector on the bottle which commands the firing of the extinguishing agent were swapped between engines No. 1 and No. 2. This condition could affect helicopters already in service and fire extinguisher bottles of the same part number in stock as spare parts. If not corrected, an improperly wired fire extinguishing bottle might cause the extinguishing agent to be directed toward the unselected engine when the system is activated, rather than toward the engine with the fire. This AD requires determining if each engine has the proper outlet end on the electrical receptacle/connector that attaches the firing cartridge to the fire extinguisher bottle, and if not, replacing the fire extinguisher bottle. This AD is intended to prevent the fire extinguishing agent from not discharging toward the engine with the fire, which could result in loss of the helicopter due to an engine fire.

DATES: This AD becomes effective on September 9, 2009.

The incorporation by reference of certain publications is approved by the Director of the Federal Register as of September 9, 2009.

ADDRESSES: You may examine the AD docket on the Internet at http://regulations.gov or in person at the Docket Operations office, U.S. Department of Transportation, M–30, West Building Ground Floor, Room W12–140, 1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE., Washington, DC between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays.

You may get the service information identified in this AD from Agusta, Via Giovanni Agusta, 520 21017 Cascina Costa di Samarate (VA), Italy, telephone 39 0331–229111, fax 39 0331–229605/222505, or at http://customersupport.agusta.com/technical_advice.php.

Examining The AD Docket: The AD docket contains the Notice of proposed rulemaking (NPRM), the economic evaluation, any comments received, and other information. The street address and operating hours for the Docket Operations office (telephone 800 647–5527) are in the ADDRESSES section of this AD. Comments will be available in the AD docket shortly after they are received.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: John Strasburger, Aviation Safety Engineer FAA, Rotorcraft Directorate, Regulations and Policy Group, 2601 Meacham Blvd., Fort Worth, Texas 76137; telephone (817) 222–5167; fax (817) 222–5961.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Discussion

We issued an NPRM to amend 14 CFR part 39 to include an AD that would apply to Agusta Model AB139 and AW139 helicopters on February 19, 2009. That NPRM was published in the Federal Register on March 9, 2009 (74 FR 9971). That NPRM proposed to require determining if each engine has the proper outlet end on the electrical receptacle/connector that attaches the firing cartridge to the fire extinguisher bottle, and if not, replacing the fire extinguisher bottle. The proposed AD
actions are intended to prevent the fire extinguishing agent from not discharging toward the engine with the fire, which could result in loss of the helicopter due to an engine fire. You may obtain further information by examining the MCAI and any related service information in the AD docket.

Comments

By publishing the NPRM, we gave the public an opportunity to participate in developing this AD. However, we received no comment on the NPRM or on our determination of the cost to the public. Therefore, based on our review and evaluation of the available data, we have determined that air safety and the public interest require adopting the AD as proposed.

Relevant Service Information

Agusta has issued Bollettino Tecnico No. 139–085, dated May 18, 2007. The actions described in the MCAI are intended to correct the same unsafe condition as that identified in the service information.

Differences Between This AD and the MCAI AD

We have reviewed the MCAI AD and related service information and, in general, agree with their substance. However, our AD differs from the MCAI AD to clarify the unsafe condition and compliance instructions. In making these changes, we do not intend to differ substantively from the information provided in the MCAI and related service information. These differences are highlighted in the “Differences Between the FAA AD and the MCAI AD” section in the AD.

Costs of Compliance

We estimate that this AD will affect about 20 helicopters of U.S. registry and that it will take about 1 work-hour per helicopter to verify the correct installation of electrical receptacles/ connectors on the two fire extinguisher bottles. We also estimate that it will take about 2 work-hours per helicopter to replace a fire extinguisher bottle with the inverted electrical receptacles/ connectors and that about 5% (2 bottles) of the fire extinguisher bottles in the fleet will have to be replaced. The average labor rate is $80 per work hour. The cost of a replacement fire extinguisher bottle is $10,300. Based on these figures, we estimate the cost of this AD on U.S. operators to be $22,680.

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 product(s) identified in this rulemaking action.

Regulatory Findings

We determined that this AD will not have federalism implications under Executive Order 13132. This AD will 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, I certify this 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. 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 an economic evaluation of the estimated costs to comply with this AD and placed it in the AD docket.

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 AD:

Effective Date


(a) This airworthiness directive (AD) becomes effective on September 9, 2009.

Other Affected ADs

(b) None.

Applicability

(c) This AD applies to Model AB139 helicopters, serial number (S/N) 31055 through 31064, except S/N 31070, and AW139 helicopters, S/N 31055 through 31067, S/N 31070, and S/N 31071, certificated in any category.

Reason

(d) The mandatory continuing airworthiness information (MCAI) states that during the installation of a fire extinguisher bottle, part number 3G2626V00131, on a helicopter during manufacture, it was found that the electrical receptacle/connector on the bottle which commands the firing of the extinguishing agent were swapped between engines No. 1 and No. 2. This condition could affect helicopters already in service and fire extinguisher bottles of the same part number in stock as spare parts. If not corrected, an improperly wired fire extinguishing bottle might cause the extinguishing agent to be discharged toward the unselected engine when the system is activated, rather than toward the engine with the fire. This AD requires determining if each engine has the proper outlet end on the electrical receptacle/connector that attaches the firing cartridge to the fire extinguisher bottle, and if not, replacing the fire extinguisher bottle. This AD is intended to prevent the fire extinguishing agent from not discharging toward the engine with the fire, which could result in loss of the helicopter due to an engine fire.

Actions and Compliance

(e) Within 100 hours time-in-service (TIS) or 3 months, whichever occurs first, unless already done, do the following actions.

(1) Determine whether the fire extinguishing bottle (bottle) for engines No. 1 and No. 2 have the proper outlet end on the electrical receptacle/connector, which attaches the firing cartridge to the bottle, by following steps 4. and 5. of the Compliance Instructions in Agusta Bollettino Tecnico No. 139–085, dated May 18, 2007 (BT).

(2) If a bottle has an electrical receptacle/ connector for the firing cartridge with an improper outlet end, before further flight, replace the bottle with a bottle that has an electrical receptacle/connector with a proper outlet end in accordance with step 6. of the Compliance Instructions in the BT.

Differences Between This AD and the MCAI AD

(f) This AD uses the term “hours time-in-service” rather than “flight hours.”

Other Information

(g) Alternative Methods of Compliance (AMOCAs): The Manager, Safety Management Group, Rotorcraft Directorate, FAA, ATTN: John Strasburger, Aviation Safety Engineer,
FAA, Rotorcraft Directorate, Regulations and Policy Group, 2601 Meacham Blvd., Fort Worth, Texas 76137; telephone (817) 222–5167; fax (817) 222–5961, has the authority to approve AMOCs for this AD, if requested using the procedures found in 14 CFR 39.19.

Related Information

Joint Aircraft System/Component (JASC) Code
(i) JASC Code 2621: Fire Bottle, Fixed.

Material Incorporated by Reference
(j) You must use the specified portions of Agusta Bollettino Tecnico No. 139–085, dated May 18, 2007 to do the actions required.

(1) The Director of the Federal Register approved the incorporation by reference of this service information under 5 U.S.C. 552(a) and 1 CFR part 51.

(2) For service information identified in this AD, contact Agusta, Via Giovanni Agusta, 520 21017 Cascina Costa di Samarate (VA), Italy, telephone 39 0331–229111, fax 39 0331–229605/222595, or at http://customersupport.agusta.com/technical_advice.php.

(3) You may review copies at the FAA, Office of the Regional Counsel, Southwest Region, 2601 Meacham Blvd., Room 663, Fort Worth, Texas; or at the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA). For information on the availability of this material at NARA, call (202) 741–6030, or go to: http://www.archives.gov/federal-register/cfr/ibr-locations.html.

Issued in Fort Worth, Texas, on July 10, 2009.

Larry M. Kolly,
Acting Manager, Rotorcraft Directorate, Aircraft Certification Service.

[FR Doc. E9–18430 Filed 8–4–09; 8:45 am]

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
Federal Aviation Administration

14 CFR Part 39


RIN 2120–AA64

Airworthiness Directives; Boeing Model 737–100, –200, –200C, –300, –400, and –500 Series Airplanes

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

ACTION: Final rule.

SUMMARY: The FAA is superseding an existing airworthiness directive (AD) that applies to certain Boeing Model 737–100, –200, –200C, –300, –400, and –500 series airplanes. That AD currently requires repetitive inspections of the intercostal webs, attachment clips, and stringer splice channels for cracks; and corrective action if necessary. This new AD reduces the repetitive inspection intervals from 25,000 flight cycles to 6,000 flight cycles, and expands the inspection area for Model 737–200C series airplanes to include the area aft of the forward entry door. This AD results from additional reports of fatigue cracks. We are issuing this AD to detect and correct fatigue cracking of the intercostals on the forward and aft sides of the forward entry door, which could result in loss of the forward entry door and rapid decompression of the airplane.

DATES: This AD becomes effective September 9, 2009.

The Director of the Federal Register approved the incorporation by reference of a certain publication listed in the AD as of September 9, 2009.

ADDRESSES: For service information identified in this AD, contact Boeing Commercial Airplanes, Attention: Data & Services Management, P.O. Box 3707, MC 2H–65, Seattle, Washington 98124–2207; telephone 206–544–5000, extension 1; fax 206–766–5680; e-mail me.boecom@boeing.com; Internet https://www.myboeingfleet.com.

Examine the AD Docket

You may examine the AD docket on the Internet at http://www.regulations.gov; or in person at the Docket Management Facility between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays. The AD docket contains this AD, the regulatory evaluation, any comments received, and other information. The address for the Docket Office (telephone 800–647–5527) is the Document Management Facility, U.S. Department of Transportation, Docket Operations, M–30, West Building Ground Floor, Room W12–140, 1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE., Washington, DC 20590.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Discussion

The FAA issued a notice of proposed rulemaking (NPRM) in amendment 14 CFR part 39 to include an AD that superseded AD 2005–20–03, amendment 39–14296 (70 FR 56361, September 27, 2005). The existing AD applies to certain Boeing Model 737–100, –200, –200C, –300, –400, and –500 series airplanes. That NPRM was published in the Federal Register on November 17, 2008 (73 FR 67815). That NPRM proposed to continue to require repetitive inspections of the intercostal webs, attachment clips, and stringer splice channels for cracks, at repetitive inspection intervals reduced from 25,000 flight cycles to 6,000 flight cycles; and corrective action if necessary. That NPRM also proposed to expand the inspection area for Model 737–200C series airplanes to include the area aft of the forward entry door.

Comments

We provided the public the opportunity to participate in the development of this AD. We have considered the comments that have been received on the NPRM.

Request to Increase Grace Period

US Airways requests that we increase the threshold grace period from 3,000 flight cycles after the effective date of this AD to 4,500 flight cycles. US Airways states that the new grace period it requests would allow operators to schedule more airplanes into appropriate maintenance tasks. US Airways explains that the inspection would affect its operation by requiring additional maintenance that is not presently scheduled.

We do not agree with the commenter’s request. In developing an appropriate compliance time for this AD, we considered not only the safety implications, but the manufacturer’s recommendations, and the practical aspect of accomplishing the modification within an interval of time that corresponds to typical scheduled maintenance for affected operators. However, under the provisions of paragraph (m) of this AD, we may consider requests for adjustments to the compliance time if data are submitted to substantiate that such an adjustment would provide an acceptable level of safety. We have not changed this AD in this regard.

Explanation of Additional Changes to the AD

We have clarified paragraphs (h), (i), and (l) of this AD to include the full citation for the service information referenced in those paragraphs. We made this change to ensure that it is clear which service information operators must use for a specific action.

We have changed paragraph (j) of this AD to remove the reference to “Part 4 of the Work Instructions of Boeing.