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 is an unsatisfactory condition that is likely to exist or develop on products identified in this rulemaking action.

List of Subjects in 14 CFR Part 39

Air transportation, Aircraft, Aviation safety, Incorporation by reference, Safety.

Adoption of the Amendment

Accordingly, pursuant to the authority delegated to me by the Administrator, the Federal Aviation Administration amends part 39 of the Federal Aviation Regulations (14 CFR part 39) as follows:

PART 39—AIRWORTHINESS DIRECTIVES

§ 39.13 [Amended]

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 a new airworthiness directive to read as follows:


Applicability: Sikorsky Aircraft Corporation Model S–76 helicopters, serial numbers 760501 and 760506 through 760761, with Option Code 88051 Flotation System installed by Keystone Helicopter Corporation, certificated in any category.

Compliance: Before the next flight over water, or within 30 days, whichever occurs first, unless accomplished previously.

To determine if a metallic foil shunt is installed in the flotation system, which could prevent the flotation system from deploying and could prevent the helicopter from staying afloat long enough to enable emergency evacuation after a water landing, accomplish the following:

(a) Inspect the flotation system connector and if a metallic foil shunt is found, remove it in accordance with the Accomplishment Instructions, paragraphs 3.A.(1) through 3.A.(0), in Sikorsky Alert Service Bulletin No. 76–32–30, dated April 8, 2009.

(b) To request a different method of compliance or a different compliance time for this AD, follow the procedures in 14 CFR 39.19. Contact the Manager, Boston Aircraft Certification Office, FAA, Attn: Terry Fahr, 12 New England Executive, Burlington, MA 01803, telephone (781) 238–7155, fax (781) 238–7170. (c) The inspection shall be done in accordance with the specified portions of Sikorsky Alert Service Bulletin No. 76–32–30, dated April 8, 2009. The Director of the Federal Register approved this incorporation by reference in accordance with 5 U.S.C. 552(e) and 1 CFR part 51. Copies may be obtained from Sikorsky Aircraft Corporation, Attn: Manager, Commercial Technical Support, mailstop s581a, 6900 Main Street, Stratford, CT, telephone (203) 383–4866, e-mail address tslibrary@sikorsky.com, or at http://www.sikorsky.com. Copies may be inspected 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/airworthiness/code_of_federal_regulations/ibr_locations.html.

Joint Aircraft System/Component [JASC] Code

(d) JASC Code 3212: Emergency Flotation Systems.

(e) This amendment becomes effective on April 1, 2010.

Issued in Fort Worth, Texas, on February 3, 2010.

Mark R. Schilling,
Acting Manager, Rotorcraft Directorate, Aircraft Certification Service.

[FR Doc. 2010–5294 Filed 3–16–10; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910–13–P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Aviation Administration

14 CFR Part 39


RIN 2120–AA64

Airworthiness Directives; Learjet Inc. Model 45 Airplanes

AGENCY: Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), DOT.

ACTION: Final rule; request for comments.

SUMMARY: We are adopting a new airworthiness directive (AD) for certain Model 45 airplanes. This AD requires a general visual inspection for cracked and missing ballscrew assembly sleeves of the flap actuator, repetitive non-destructive liquid penetrant inspections of each sleeve or flap actuator for cracks, and replacement or modification of the flap actuator if necessary. This AD results from reports of cracked and missing ballscrew assembly sleeves of the flap actuators. We are issuing this AD to detect and correct cracked and missing sleeves, which could cause loss of the load-carrying ball bearings on both actuators on one flap, resulting in flap asymmetry and loss of control of the airplane.

DATES: This AD is effective April 1, 2010.

The Director of the Federal Register approved this incorporation by reference of certain publications listed in the AD as of April 1, 2010.

We must receive comments on this AD by May 3, 2010.

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, Docket 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.

For service information identified in this AD, contact Learjet, Inc., One Learjet Way, Wichita, Kansas 67209–2942; telephone 316–946–2000; fax 316–946–2220; e-mail ac.ict@aero.bombardier.com; Internet http://www.bombardier.com.

Examining 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 street address for the Docket 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:

William Griffith, Aerospace Engineer, Airframe Branch, ACFE–118W, FAA, Wichita Aircraft Certification Office, 1801 Airport Road, Room 100, Mid-
Differences Between the AD and the Service Information

Although Bombardier (Learjet) Alert Service Bulletins A45–27–40 and A40–27–24, both dated January 11, 2010, specify a compliance time of 30 days after the publication of those service bulletins, this AD requires a compliance time of 15 days after the effective date of this AD. We have received additional reports of fully cracked sleeves requiring replacement. Therefore, we have determined that the 15-day compliance time is necessary to address the identified unsafe condition. This difference has been coordinated with Learjet.

Although Bombardier (Learjet) Alert Service Bulletins A45–27–40 and A40–27–24, both dated January 11, 2010, do not specify repetitive inspections, this AD requires operators to repeat the non-destructive liquid penetrant inspections at intervals not to exceed 6 months. The repetitive inspections will help determine the extent of the problem in the fleet. This difference has been coordinated with Learjet.

We have received reports of cracked and missing ballscrew assembly sleeves of the flap actuators. Three flap actuators were found with the ballscrew sleeves corroded and cracked. Three additional airplanes were discovered to contain similar corrosion on the ballscrew sleeves. The root cause is galvanic corrosion due to an aluminum sleeve installed on a steel ballnut. This condition, if not corrected, could cause loss of the load-carrying ball bearings on both actuators on one flap, resulting in flap asymmetry and loss of control of the airplane.

Relevant Service Information

We reviewed Bombardier (Learjet) Alert Service Bulletins A45–27–40 (for Model 45 airplanes, serial numbers 45–005 through 45–380), and A40–27–24 (for Model 45 airplanes, serial numbers 45–2001 through 45–2111), both dated January 11, 2010. These service bulletins describe procedures for a general visual inspection for cracked and missing ballscrew assembly sleeves of the flap actuator; a non-destructive liquid penetrant inspection for cracks of each sleeve and flap actuator, depending on the findings; and replacement of the flap actuator and ballscrew actuator sleeve if the sleeve is cracked along its entire length.

We also reviewed Bombardier (Learjet) Optional Service Bulletins A45–27–41 (for Model 45 airplanes, serial numbers 45–005 through 45–380), and A40–27–25 (for Model 45 airplanes, serial numbers 45–2001 through 45–2111), both dated January 11, 2010. These service bulletins describe procedures for modifying the flap actuator if a certain crack length is found and the part does not need to be replaced.

FAA’s Determination and Requirements of This AD

We are issuing this AD because we evaluated all the relevant information and determined the unsafe condition described previously is likely to exist or develop in other products of the same type design. This AD requires accomplishing the actions specified in the service information described previously, except as discussed under “Differences Between the AD and the Service Information.”
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

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.

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.

You can find our regulatory evaluation and the estimated costs of compliance in the AD Docket.

List of Subjects in 14 CFR Part 39


Subject

(d) Air Transport Association (ATA) of America Code 27: Flight Controls.

Unsafe Condition

(e) This AD results from reports of cracked and missing ballscrew assembly sleeves of the flap actuators. The Federal Aviation Administration is issuing this AD to detect and correct cracked and missing sleeves, which could cause loss of the load-carrying ball bearings on both actuators on one flap, resulting in flap asymmetry and loss of control of the airplane.

Compliance

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

General Visual Inspection

(g) Within 15 days after the effective date of this AD, do a general visual inspection for cracked or missing sleeves of the flap actuators, in accordance with the Accomplishment Instructions of Bombardier (Learjet) Alert Service Bulletin A45–27–40 (for Model 45 airplanes, serial numbers 45–005 through 45–380); or Bombardier (Learjet) Alert Service Bulletin A40–27–24 (for Model 45 airplanes, serial numbers 45–001 through 45–2111); both dated January 11, 2010. Repeat the non-destructive liquid penetrant inspection of the half sleeve thereafter at intervals not to exceed 6 months. If any crack is found in any half (modified) sleeve, before further flight, replace the sleeve with a new half sleeve, in accordance with the Accomplishment Instructions of Bombardier (Learjet) Optional Service Bulletin 45–27–41, or Bombardier (Learjet) Optional Service Bulletin 40–27–25, both dated January 11, 2010, and repeat the non-destructive liquid penetrant inspection of the half sleeve thereafter at intervals not to exceed 6 months.

Replacement (Sleeve Is Missing or Cracked Along Its Entire Length)

(i) During the general visual inspection required by paragraph (g) of this AD, if the sleeve is missing or cracked along its entire length, before further flight after accomplishing the general visual inspection, replace the actuator with a new or serviceable actuator, in accordance with the Accomplishment Instructions of Bombardier (Learjet) Alert Service Bulletin A45–27–40, or Bombardier (Learjet) Alert Service Bulletin A40–27–24, both dated January 11, 2010. Within 6 months after any actuator replacement required by paragraph (i) of this AD: Do a non-destructive liquid penetrant inspection to detect cracking of the actuator, in accordance with Accomplishment Instructions of Bombardier (Learjet) Alert Service Bulletin A45–27–40, or Bombardier (Learjet) Alert Service Bulletin A40–27–24, both dated January 11, 2010.

(1) If no crack is found during the non-destructive liquid penetrant inspection, repeat the inspection thereafter at intervals not to exceed 6 months.

(2) If any crack is found during the non-destructive liquid penetrant inspection, before further flight, modify the flap actuator, in accordance with the Accomplishment Instructions of Bombardier (Learjet) Optional Service Bulletin 45–27–41 (for Model 45 airplanes, serial numbers 45–005 through 45–380); or Bombardier (Learjet) Optional Service Bulletin 40–27–25 (for Model 45 airplanes, serial numbers 45–2001 through 45–2111); both dated January 11, 2010. Repeat the non-destructive liquid penetrant inspection of the half sleeve thereafter at intervals not to exceed 6 months. If any crack is found in any half (modified) sleeve, before further flight, replace the sleeve with a new half sleeve, in accordance with the Accomplishment Instructions of Bombardier (Learjet) Optional Service Bulletin 45–27–41, or Bombardier (Learjet) Optional Service Bulletin 40–27–25, both dated January 11, 2010, and repeat the non-destructive liquid penetrant inspection of the half sleeve thereafter at intervals not to exceed 6 months.

Note: Guidance on modification of the flap actuator can be found in Microtecnica Service Bulletin 27–0018, dated November 24, 2009.

Parts Installation

(k) As of the effective date of this AD, no person may install, on any airplane, a ballscrew assembly sleeve of the flap actuator, unless the actuator has been modified according to Bombardier (Learjet) Optional Service Bulletin 45–27–41, or Bombardier (Learjet) Optional Service Bulletin 45–27–25, both dated January 11, 2010.

Reporting Requirement

(k) Submit a one-time report of the findings of the general visual inspection and the initial non-destructive liquid penetrant inspection required by this AD to Chris Broadrick, Bombardier Aerospace, Project Coordinator—Fielding Specialist, Customer Support Engineering, One Learjet Way, P.O. Box 7707, Wichita, Kansas 67209; telephone 316–946–2315; fax 316–946–8908; e-mail chris.broadrick@aero.bombardier.com; at the applicable time specified in paragraph (k)(1) or (k)(2) of this AD. The report must include flap actuator serial number, and flap actuator part number, flap actuator serial number, and flap actuator time in service (in hours). Under the provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act (44 U.S.C. 3501 et seq.), the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) has approved the information collection requirements contained in this AD and has assigned OMB Control Number 2120–0056.

Table 1: Material Incorporated by Reference

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Issued in Renton, Washington, on March 9, 2010.

Jeffrey E. Duven,

Acting Manager, Transport Airplane Directorate, Aircraft Certification Service.

[FR Doc. 2010–5669 Filed 3–16–10; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910–13–P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Aviation Administration

14 CFR Part 39


RIN 2120–AA64

Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Model 767 Airplanes

AGENCY: Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), DOT.

ACTION: Final rule.

SUMMARY: We are adopting a new airworthiness directive (AD) for certain Model 767 series airplanes. This AD requires inspections for scribe lines in the fuselage skin at skin lap joints, the skin at certain external approved repairs, the skin around external features such as antennas, and the skin at decals; and related investigative and corrective actions if necessary. This AD results from reports of scribe lines found at skin lap joints and butt joints, around external repairs and antennas, and at locations where external decal had been cut. We are issuing this AD to detect and correct scribe lines, which can develop into fatigue cracks in the skin and cause sudden decompression of the airplane.

DATES: This AD is effective April 21, 2010.

The Director of the Federal Register approved the incorporation by reference of a certain publication listed in the AD as of April 21, 2010.

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. You may review copies of the referenced service information at the FAA, Transport Airplane Directorate, 1601 Lind Avenue, SW., Renton, Washington. For information on the availability of this material at the FAA, call 425–227–1221.

Examining 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