DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Aviation Administration

14 CFR Part 39


RIN 2120–AA64


AGENCY: Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), DOT.

ACTION: Final rule.

SUMMARY: We are adopting a new airworthiness directive (AD) for certain Model 747–100, 747–100B, 747–100B SUD, 747–200B, 747–200C, 747–200F, 747–300, 747–400, 747SR, and 747SP series airplanes. This AD requires repetitive detailed inspections of certain overwing intercostal webs, and related investigative and corrective actions if necessary. This AD results from reports of cracks in overwing intercostal webs. We are issuing this AD to detect and correct such cracking, which could grow and result in a severed intercostal. If an intercostal is severed, cracks could develop in the adjacent frame structure and skin, resulting in a rapid loss of cabin pressure.

DATES: This AD is effective August 17, 2010.

The Director of the Federal Register approved the incorporation by reference of a certain publication listed in the AD as of August 17, 2010.

ADDRESSES: For service information that is incorporated by reference 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/code_of_federal_regulations/ibr_locations.html.

Issued in Renton, Washington on June 29, 2010.

Ali Bahrami, Manager, Transport Airplane Directorate, Aircraft Certification Service.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ivan Li, Aerospace Engineer, Airframe Branch, ANM–120S, FAA, Seattle Aircraft Certification Office (ACO), 1601 Lind Avenue, SW., Renton, Washington 98057–3356; telephone (425) 917–6437; fax (425) 917–6590.

SUMMARY OF TAKEN ACTIONS AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION


We gave the public the opportunity to participate in developing this AD. We considered the comment received. Boeing supports the NPRM.

We reviewed the relevant data, considered the comment received, and determined that air safety and the public interest require adopting the AD as proposed.

We estimate that this AD affects 86 airplanes of U.S. registry. The following table provides the estimated costs for U.S. operators to comply with this AD.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Action</th>
<th>Work hours</th>
<th>Average labor rate per hour</th>
<th>Parts Cost per product</th>
<th>Number of U.S.-registered airplanes</th>
<th>Fleet cost</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Inspection...</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>$85</td>
<td>None..................</td>
<td>$340 per inspection cycle</td>
<td>86</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Authority for This Rulemaking

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

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
Adoption of the Amendment

Safety.

You can find our regulatory evaluation and the estimated costs of compliance 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) is effective August 17, 2010.

Affected ADs

(b) None.

Applicability


Subject

(d) Air Transport Association (ATA) of America Code 53: Fuselage.

Unsafe Condition

(e) This AD results from reports of cracks in overwing intercostal webs between station (STA) 1160 and STA 1220. The Federal Aviation Administration is issuing this AD to detect and correct such cracking, which could grow and result in a severed intercostal. If an intercostal is severed, cracks could develop in the adjacent frame structure and skin, resulting in a rapid loss of cabin pressure.

Compliance

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

Repetitive Inspections of the Overwing Intercostal Web

(g) Before the accumulation of 8,000 total flight cycles, or within 1,500 flight cycles after the effective date of this AD, whichever occurs later: Do a detailed inspection of the left-side and right-side STAs 1160, 1180, 1200, and 1220 overwing intercostal webs, and do all applicable related investigative and corrective actions, in accordance with the Accomplishment Instructions of Boeing Alert Service Bulletin 747–53A2750, dated August 27, 2009, except as required by paragraph (i) of this AD. Do all applicable related investigative and corrective actions before further flight. If no cracking is found during any detailed inspection, repeat the inspection thereafter at intervals not to exceed 3,000 flight cycles.

(h) For any airplane with an overwing intercostal web replaced in accordance with Boeing Alert Service Bulletin 747–53A2750, dated August 27, 2009: Within 6,000 flight cycles after the web was replaced, do a detailed inspection of the replacement overwing intercostal web, and do all applicable related investigative and corrective actions, in accordance with the Accomplishment Instructions of Boeing Alert Service Bulletin 747–53A2750, dated August 27, 2009, except as required by paragraph (i) of this AD. Do all applicable related investigative and corrective actions before further flight. If no cracking is found during any detailed inspection, repeat the inspection thereafter at intervals not to exceed 3,000 flight cycles.

Exception to Service Bulletin

(i) If any cracking is found during any inspection required by this AD, and Boeing Alert Service Bulletin 747–53A2750, dated August 27, 2009, specifies contacting Boeing for appropriate action: Before further flight, repair the cracking using a method approved in accordance with the procedures provided in paragraph (j) of this AD.

Alternative Methods of Compliance (AMOCs)

(j)(1) The Manager, Seattle Aircraft Certification Office (ACO), FAA, has the authority to approve AMOCs for this AD, if requested using the procedures provided in 14 CFR 39.19. Send information to Attn: Ivan Li, Aerospace Engineer, Airframe Branch, ANM–120S, FAA, Seattle Aircraft Certification Office (ACO), 1601 Lind Avenue, SW., Renton, Washington 98057–3356; telephone (425) 917–6437; fax (425) 917–6590. Information may be e-mailed to 9-ANM-Seattle-ACO-AMOC-Requests@faa.gov.

(2) To request a different method of compliance or a different compliance time for this AD, follow the procedures in 14 CFR 39.19. Before using any approved AMOC on any airplane to which the AMOC applies, notify your principal maintenance inspector (PMI) or principal avionics inspector (PAI), as appropriate, or lacking a principal inspector, your local Flight Standards District Office. The AMOC approval letter must specifically reference this AD.

(3) An AMOC that provides an acceptable level of safety may be used for any repair required by this AD if it is approved by the Boeing Commercial Airplanes Organization Designation Authorization that has been authorized by the Manager, Seattle ACO, to make those findings. For a repair method to be approved, the repair must meet the certification basis of the airplane, and the approval must specifically refer to this AD.

Material Incorporated by Reference

(k) You must use Boeing Alert Service Bulletin 747–53A2750, dated August 27, 2009, to do the actions required by this AD, unless the AD specifies otherwise.

(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 Boeing Commercial Airlines, 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.

(3) You may review copies of the 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.

(4) You may also review copies of the service information that is incorporated
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Highway Administration

23 CFR Part 772

[ FHWA Docket No. FHWA–2008–0114 ]

RIN 2125–AF26

Procedures for Abatement of Highway Traffic Noise and Construction Noise

AGENCY: Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), DOT.

ACTION: Final rule.

SUMMARY: This final rule amends the Federal regulations on the Procedures for Abatement of Highway Traffic Noise and Construction Noise. The final rule clarifies and adds definitions, the applicability of this regulation, certain analysis requirements, and the use of Federal funds for noise abatement measures.

DATES: Effective date: July 13, 2011.

Incorporation by reference: The incorporation by reference of certain publications listed in the regulations is approved by the Director of the Federal Register as of July 13, 2011.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Mark Ferroni, Office of Natural and Human Environment, (202) 366–3233, or Mr. Robert Black, Office of the Chief Counsel, (202) 366–1359, Federal Highway Administration, 1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE., Washington, DC 20590.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Electronic Access

This document and all comments received by the DOT Docket Facility, Room PL–401, may be viewed through www.regulations.gov. Regulations.gov is available 24 hours each day, 365 days each year. Electronic submission and retrieval help and guidelines are available under the help section of this Web site.


Background

The FHWA developed the noise regulation as required by section 136 of the Federal-Aid Highway Act of 1970 (codified at 23 U.S.C. 109(i)). The regulation applies to highway construction projects where a State department of transportation has requested Federal funding for participation in the project. The FHWA noise regulation, found at 23 CFR 772, requires a highway agency to investigate traffic noise impacts in areas adjacent to federally funded highways for the proposed construction of a highway on a new location or the reconstruction of an existing highway that either significantly changes the horizontal or vertical alignment or increases the number of through-traffic lanes. If the highway agency identifies impacts, it must consider abatement. The highway agency must incorporate all feasible and reasonable noise abatement into the project design.

The FHWA published the “Highway Traffic Noise Analysis and Abatement Policy and Guidance” (Policy and Guidance), dated June 1995 (available at http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/noise/polguide/polguid.pdf), which provides guidance and policy on highway traffic and construction noise abatement procedures for Federal-aid projects. While updating the 1995 Policy and Guidance, the FHWA determined that certain changes to the noise regulations were necessary.

As a result, the FHWA published a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) on September 17, 2009 (74 FR 47762). This final rule amends sections 772.1, 772.5 to 772.17, and Table 1—Noise Abatement Criteria. Sections 772.3 and 772.19 are not amended by this final rule, and Appendix A—National Reference Energy Mean Emission Levels as a Function of Speed, is removed by this final rule. This final rule also reorganizes various sections and parts of sections throughout the NPRM to institute a more logical order in the regulation. This reorganization does not change the meaning of the regulation and is not substantive in nature.

In the preamble of the NPRM, the FHWA specifically asked for comments on the cost of abatement, third party funding for abatement, and maintaining a noise abatement inventory. The FHWA appreciates the comments received on this section. A summary of the comments received and the FHWA’s response to these comments can be found in the discussion of comments section.

The preamble of the NPRM requested comments on a proposed timeline for highway agencies to revise and have the FHWA approve their noise policies. Changes to this timeline have been made based on the comments received. Therefore, highway agencies will need to submit their revised noise policy, meeting the requirements of this final rule, to FHWA for approval within 6 months from the publication date of this final rule. The FHWA will review the highway agency’s revised noise policy for conformance to the final rule and uniform and consistent application nationwide. The highway agency will provide FHWA a review schedule for approval of their revised noise policy that does not exceed 3 months from the highway agency’s first submission of the revised noise policy to the FHWA. Each review of the document by FHWA should have a duration of at least 14 days for the initial and subsequent reviews. The highway agency’s main point of contact for this review will be the FHWA Division Office in their State. Each highway agency’s revised noise document will be concurrently reviewed by three FHWA offices to ensure uniform and consistent application of this final rule nationwide (one from the respective Division Office, one from the Resource Center, and one from Headquarters). Failure to submit a revised noise policy in accordance with the final rule could result in a delay in FHWA’s approval of Federal-aid highway projects that require a noise analysis. The highway agency would be required to implement the new standard no later than 12 months from the date this final rule was published in the Federal Register.

Grandfathering to the pre-final rule of 23 CFR 772 should be considered for Federal-aid highway projects for which the Categorical Exclusion, Finding of No Significant Impact, or Record of Decision has been signed by the effective date of this final rule. The State highway agency should coordinate with their FHWA Division Office to determine which projects, if any, should be completed under the previous 23 CFR 772 and highway agency’s previously approved noise policy.

The FHWA has updated the Policy and Guidance document to reflect what is presented in this final rule. Highway