DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Aviation Administration

14 CFR Part 39


RIN 2120–AA64

Airworthiness Directives; Viking Air Limited Model DHC–3 (Otter) Airplanes With Supplemental Type Certificate (STC) SA 09866SC

AGENCY: Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), DOT.

ACTION: Final rule; correction.

SUMMARY: The FAA is correcting an airworthiness directive (AD) that published in the Federal Register. That AD applies to Viking Air Limited Model DHC–3 (Otter) airplanes equipped with a Honeywell TPE331–10 or –12R turboprop engine installed per STC SA09866SC (Texas Turbines Conversions, Inc.). The wording on how the AD is justified and the wording of the temporary placard need clarification. The clarification does not affect the actions of the AD. This document makes this clarification. In all other respects, the original document remains the same.

DATES: This final rule is effective October 11, 2011. The effective date for AD 2011–12–02 remains June 2, 2011.

ADDRESSES: 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 statement, and all comments received, and other information. The address for the Docket Office (phone: 800–647–5527) is 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: Peter W. Hakala, Aerospace Engineer, Special Certification Office, FAA, Rotorcraft Directorate, 2601 Meacham Blvd., Fort Worth, Texas 76137; phone: (817) 222–5145; fax: (817) 222–5785; e-mail: peter.w.hakala@faa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Airworthiness Directive 2011–12–02, Amendment 39–16709 (76 FR 31800, June 2, 2011), currently requires incorporating revised airspeed limitations and marking the airspeed indicator accordingly for Viking Air Limited Model DHC–3 (Otter) airplanes equipped with a Honeywell TPE331–10 or –12R turboprop engine installed per STC SA09866SC (Texas Turbines Conversions, Inc.). There is also a requirement for the installation of a temporary placard until the airspeed indicator can be modified but not to exceed a certain period of time.

As published, the wording on justification for the AD and the wording of the temporary placard need clarification. The clarification does not affect the actions of the AD. Only the changed portion of the final rule is being published in the Federal Register. The effective date of this AD remains June 2, 2011.

Correction of Non-Regulatory Text

In the Federal Register of June 2, 2011, AD 2011–12–02; Amendment 39–16709 (76 FR 31800, June 2, 2011), is corrected as follows:

On page 31800, in the third column, on line two under Airworthiness Directives; add at the end of the section the phrase “with Supplemental Type Certificate (STC) SA09866SC.”

On page 31801, in the first column, at the end of the fifth line from the top and beginning of the sixth line from the top, remove the phrase “as stated in the regulations.”

On page 31801, in the first column, in lines 10 through 12 from the top, replace the phrase “that exceed the speeds established in the federal aviation regulations for safe operation” with “that exceed those determined to be safe by the FAA.”

On page 31801, in the second column, in lines 7 and 8 from the top, remove the phrase “as stated in the regulations.”

On page 31801, in the second column, in lines 4 through 7 of the first full paragraph, replace the “with color band markings that do not comply with 14 CFR 23.1505(c). This could result in reduced safety margins that may result in an unsafe condition.” with “with color band markings that could result in reduced safety margins and cause an unsafe condition.”

On page 31801, in the second column, in lines 5 through 7 of the third full paragraph, replace the phrase “that exceed the speeds established in the federal aviation regulations for safe operation” with “that exceed those determined to be safe by the FAA.”

Correction of Regulatory Text

§ 39.13 [Corrected]

In the Federal Register of June 2, 2011, AD 2011–12–02; Amendment 39–16709 (76 FR 31800, June 2, 2011), on page 31802, paragraphs (e) and (f)(2) of AD 2011–12–02 are corrected to read as follows:

(e) This AD was prompted by analysis that showed that airspeed limitations for the affected airplanes are not adjusted for the installation of a turboprop engine. We are issuing this AD to prevent the loss of airplane structural integrity due to the affected airplanes being able to operate at speeds that exceed those determined to be safe by the FAA.

(f)(2) Fabricate a placard using letters of at least ½-inch in height with the following words: “Maximum certificated operating speed is 144 MPH, VMO speed limit for land/ ski plane and 134 MPH, VMO speed limit for seaplane.” Install this placard on the airplane instrument panel next to the airspeed indicator within the pilot’s clear view.

Issued in Kansas City, Missouri, on October 3, 2011.

Earl Lawrence,
Manager, Small Airplane Directorate, Aircraft Certification Service.

[FR Doc. 2011–26002 Filed 10–7–11; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910–13–P

CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION

16 CFR Part 1450

Virginia Graeme Baker Pool and Spa Safety Act; Interpretation of Unblockable Drain

AGENCY: Consumer Product Safety Commission.

ACTION: Final rule; revocation.


DATES: Effective date: This rule is effective October 11, 2011.

Compliance date: This revocation does not alter the current requirement that public pools and spas be in compliance with the VGB Act, which became effective December 19, 2008. Any public pools or spas that require modifications as a result of this revocation shall comply by May 28, 2012.

Comment dates: Written comments and submissions in response to this

1 The Commission voted 3–2 to publish this revocation, with changes, in the Federal Register. Chairman Inez M. Tenenbaum, Commissioners Robert Adler and Thomas Moore voted to publish the revocation. Commissioners Nancy Nord and Anne Northup voted against publication of this revocation. Chairman Tenenbaum, Commissioner Adler, Commissioner Moore and Commissioner Nord filed statements regarding the vote. The statements may be viewed at http://www.cpsc.gov/pr/statements.html.
action must be received by December 12, 2011. The Commission invites written comments regarding the ability of those who have installed VGBA compliant unblockable drain covers as described at 16 CFR 1450.2(b) to come into compliance with our revocation by May 28, 2012.

**ADDRESS:** You may submit comments, identified by Docket No. CPSC–2011–0071, by any of the following methods:

**Electronic Submissions**

Submit electronic comments in the following way:


To ensure timely processing of comments, the Commission is no longer accepting comments submitted by electronic mail (e-mail), except through http://www.regulations.gov.

**Written Submissions**

Submit written submissions in the following way:

Mail/Hand delivery/Courier (for paper [preferably in five copies], disk, or CD–ROM submissions), to: Office of the Secretary, Consumer Product Safety Commission, Room 820, 4330 East West Highway, Bethesda, MD 20814; telephone (301) 504–7923.

**Instructions:** All submissions received must include the agency name and docket number for this rulemaking. All comments received may be posted without change, including any personal identifiers, contact information, or other personal information provided, to http://www.regulations.gov. Do not submit confidential business information, trade secret information, or other sensitive or protected information electronically. Such information should be submitted in writing and noted as such.

**Docket:** For access to the docket to read background comments or comments received, go to: http://www.regulations.gov.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Troy Whitfield, Lead Compliance Officer, Office of Compliance, Consumer Product Safety Commission, 4330 East West Highway, Bethesda, MD 20814–4408; telephone (301) 504–7548 or e-mail twhitfield@cpsc.gov.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

**A. Background**

The Virginia Graeme Baker Pool and Spa Safety Act, Pub. L. 110–140, Title XIV (“the VGB Act”) was signed into law on December 19, 2007, and became effective on December 19, 2008. The VGB Act’s purpose is to prevent suction entrapment by swimming pool and spa drains and child drowning in swimming pools and spas.

Section 1404(c)(1)(A)(i) of the VGB Act requires that each public pool and spa in the United States be equipped with drain covers that comply with the ASME/ANSI A112.19.8 performance standard or any successor standard. (In the Federal Register of August 5, 2011 (76 FR 47436), we published a final rule to incorporate into our regulations ANSI/ASME–16 2011 as the successor standard to ANSI/ASME A112.19.8. The effective date of this incorporation is September 6, 2011, so that drain covers manufactured, distributed, or entered into commerce in the United States must conform to ANSI/ASME–16 2011 as of that date. See 16 CFR 1450.3) Section 1404(c)(1)(A)(ii) of the VGB Act requires that each public pool and spa in the United States with a single main drain, other than an unblockable drain, be equipped, at a minimum, with one or more of the following:

- Safety vacuum release system;
- Suction-limiting vent system;
- Gravity drainage system;
- Automatic pump shut-off system;
- Drain disablement; and/or
- Any other system determined by the Commission to be equally effective as, or better than, the enumerated systems at preventing or eliminating the risk of injury or death associated with pool drainage systems.

For purposes of this preamble, we will refer to these systems collectively as “secondary anti-entrapment systems.” Thus, under the VGB Act, each public pool or spa with a single main drain, other than an unblockable drain, must be equipped with a secondary anti-entrapment system. Section 1403(7) of the VGB Act defines an “unblockable drain” as “a drain of any size and shape that a human body cannot sufficiently block to create a suction entrapment hazard.”

On April 27, 2010, the Commission issued a final interpretive rule in the Federal Register (75 FR 21985) interpreting “unblockable drain” as follows:

A suction outlet defined as all components, including the sump and/or body, cover/grate, and hardware such that its perforated (open) area cannot be shadowed by the area of the 18” x 23” Body Blocking Element of ASME/ANSI A112.19.8–2007 and that the rated flow through the remaining open area (beyond the shadowed portion) cannot create a suction force in excess of the removal force values in Table 1 of that Standard. All suction outlet covers, manufactured or field-fabricated, shall be certified as meeting the applicable requirements of the ASME/ANSI A112.19.8 standard.

This language is codified in 16 CFR 1450.2(b). Under this interpretation, when a drain cover meeting certain specifications was attached to a drain, the covered drain constituted an “unblockable drain.” As an unblockable drain, this drain did not require a secondary anti-entrapment system. For the reasons set forth in Part B, the Commission is revoking this interpretation. As a result, a blockable drain cannot be made “unblockable” by use of a cover alone.

**B. Revised Interpretation**

Since the issuance of this interpretive rule, we received 156 letters asking us to reexamine our interpretation of the definition of “unblockable drain.” In general, these letters assert that drain covers, regardless of their size, can come off or break over the course of the life of a pool or spa, even when the owners and operators have the best intentions. They claim that for this reason, backup systems are necessary, and a swimming pool or spa with a single main drain cannot be made “unblockable” by the simple installation of a drain cover meeting certain requirements. They also claim that our interpretation of the definition of “unblockable drain” undermines the law’s intent of incorporating several layers of protection into pools and spas. These letters have been made part of the docket.

In light of these letters, we have reconsidered our interpretation of an “unblockable drain,” at 16 CFR 1450.2(b) and believe it was in error. Regardless of the size of a drain and its cover, the drain cover can come off, presenting a risk of entrapment. We believe that not requiring an additional layer of protection in the form of a secondary anti-entrapment system thwarts the layers of protection intended by the VGB Act. Accordingly, the Commission is revoking the interpretation of unblockable drain at 16 CFR 1450.2(b).

**C. Effect of Revocation of 16 CFR 1450.2(b)**

The revocation of this rule means that a drain cover can no longer be used to convert a blockable drain into an unblockable drain. Pursuant to the VGB Act, drains that are blockable require a secondary anti-entrapment system. Section 1404(c)(1)(A)(ii) of the VGB Act. Accordingly, if you have used an unblockable drain cover to create an unblockable drain, the revocation of the interpretive rule means that you must equip your public pool or public spa with a secondary anti-entrapment system as required by the VGB Act. A
drain is “unblockable” if the suction outlet, including the sump, has a perforated (open) area that cannot be shadowed by the area of the 18” x 23” Body Blocking Element of ANSI/APSP-16 2011 and the rated flow through any portion of the remaining open area (beyond the shadowed portion) cannot create a suction force in excess of the removal force values in Table 1 of that Standard. The Staff Technical Guidance of June 2008 will be updated to clarify that placing a removable, unblockable drain cover over a blockable drain does not constitute an unblockable drain. This revocation corrects the previous interpretation, which the Commission now believes was in error and thwarts the intent of the law to require layers of protection in cases where a drain cover, regardless of its size, can be removed, broken, or otherwise expose a blockable drain and present an entrapment hazard. The Commission has set a compliance date of May 28, 2012, to allow time for firms that require modifications as a result of this revocation to bring their pools into compliance with the statute as written. In addition, the Commission invites written comments regarding the ability of those who have installed VGBA compliant unblockable drain covers as described at 16 CFR 1450.2(b) to come into compliance with our revocation by May 28, 2012.

List of Subjects in 16 CFR Part 1450
Consumer protection, Infants and children, Law enforcement.

For the reasons stated above, the Commission amends part 1450 of title 16 of the Code of Federal Regulations as set forth below:

PART 1450—VIRGINIA GRAEME BAKER POOL AND SPA SAFETY ACT REGULATIONS

■ 1. The authority citation for part 1450 continues to read as follows:


§ 1450.2 [Removed and Reserved]
■ 2. Remove and reserve § 1450.2.

Dated: September 29, 2011.
Todd A. Stevenson,
Secretary, Consumer Product Safety Commission.
[FR Doc. 2011–25601 Filed 10–7–11; 8:45 am]
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