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 Airbus SAS–EAW (Airworthiness Office), 1 Rond Point Maurice Bellonte, 31708 Blagnac Cedex, France; telephone: +33 5 61 93 36 96; fax: +33 5 61 93 44 51; e-mail: account.airworth-eas@airbus.com; Internet: http://www.airbus.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 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 October 13, 2011.

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

[FR Doc. 2011–27393 Filed 10–24–11; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910–13–P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Aviation Administration

14 CFR Part 39

RIN 2120–AA64

Airworthiness Directives: Rolls-Royce plc RB211–524 Series, RB211–Trent 700 Series, and RB211–Trent 800 Series Turbofan Engines

AGENCY: Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), DOT.

ACTION: Final rule.

SUMMARY: We are adopting a new airworthiness directive (AD) for the products listed above. This AD results from mandatory continuing airworthiness information (MCAI) issued by an aviation authority of another country to identify and correct an unsafe condition on an aviation product. The MCAI describes the unsafe condition as:

Cracking has been found on the inner wall between intermediate dilution chutes on a total of five front combustion liners of the standard corresponding to Rolls-Royce RB211 Service Bulletin No. 72–D133. The lives of two of these liners were confirmed to be below the currently valid borescope inspection interval. Ultimately, crack propagation could result in hot gas breakout with potential of downstream component distress and multiple turbine blade release beyond containment capabilities of the engine casings. Thus, cracking of this nature constitutes a potentially unsafe condition. Since Rolls-Royce Service Bulletin No. 72–E902 introduces further developments of Rolls-Royce RB211 Service Bulletin No. 72–D133, engines incorporating Rolls-Royce RB211 Service Bulletin No. 72–E902 are also considered to be potentially affected and are therefore included in the applicability of this AD.

This AD requires a change to the initial and repeat borescope inspection intervals for the front combustion liner.

Comments

We gave the public the opportunity to participate in developing this AD. We considered the comments received.

Request To Expand Address for Service Information

One commenter, Rolls-Royce plc (RR), asked us to consider changing the information for getting the service information to “For any questions concerning the technical content of the requirements in this AD (NPRM), please contact your designated Rolls-Royce representative for a copy of the service information, please download the publication from your Aeromanager account at http://www.aeromanager.com. If you do not have a designated representative or an Aeromanager account, please contact Corporate Communications at Rolls-Royce plc, PO Box 31, Derby, DE24 8BJ, United Kingdom, phone: 011–44–1331–242424, fax: 011–44–1332–249936, or e-mail: http://www.rolls-royce.com/contact/civil_team.jsp identifying the correspondence as being related to Airworthiness Directives.” RR states that this should make sure that any questions from operators of their engines and those from other parties are directed to the area best equipped to answer.

We partially agree. We agree that operators and maintenance providers need to get timely and accurate service information, and that additional information is worth including. We changed paragraph (k) of the AD to state "* * * contact Corporate Communications at Rolls-Royce plc PO Box 31, Derby, DE24 8BJ, United Kingdom, Phone: 011–44–1331–242424, fax 011–44–1332–249936 or e-mail from http://www.rolls-royce.com/contact/civil_team.jsp identifying the correspondence as being related to Airworthiness Directives."

We do not agree that operators or maintenance providers should contact RR for questions about this AD. We did not include that information in the AD.

Requests To Change References to the Service Bulletin That Is Incorporated by Reference

Two commenters, American Airlines (AA) and The Boeing Company (Boeing), asked us to add “or later
revision” after “Service Bulletin No. RB.211–72–AF458, Revision 2, dated December 21, 2007.” Boeing stated the latest revision of Service Bulletin (SB) No. RB.211–72–AF458 is Revision 4. Boeing stated that airlines have been inspecting their combustion liners to Revision 4 of the SB and the compliance intervals specified in the NPRM are consistent with RR SB RB.211–72–AF458, Revision 4 and EASA AD 2009–0243R1. AA stated the borescope inspection is the same on later revisions, so the life should be counted from the latest SB revision.

We do not agree. On review of the SB, we determined that the inspection requirements and limits called out in the SB are already in the engine and aircraft maintenance manuals. We changed the AD to remove the incorporation by reference of the SB.

One commenter, AA, asked us to revise paragraph (f) of the AD to specifically call out which paragraphs of SB RB.211–72–AF458 are incorporated by reference. AA stated the NPRM called out all of section 3 of the SB, which is too prescriptive given the nature of the inspections.

We do not agree. On review of the SB, we found incorporation by reference unnecessary. We changed the AD to remove the incorporation by reference of the SB.

Request To Remove an Engine Model From the Applicability

One commenter, AA, asked us to remove the RR RB211–535 engine model from the applicability of the proposed AD. AA stated they have recorded no crack findings against the RB211–535 model.

We agree. The thermal, acoustical, and vibratory stress environment of the RB211–535 combustion liner is different from that of the other engines to which this AD applies. We removed the RB211–535E4–37, RB211–535E4–B–37, RB211–535E4–C–37, and RB211–535E4–B–75 from the Applicability paragraph (c) of this AD, and updated our cost estimate to reflect the fewer affected engines.

Request To Change the Number of Cracking Events

One commenter, Boeing, asked us to change paragraph (d) of the proposed AD to specify that six cracking events have been found instead of five. Boeing states that changing paragraph (d) of the proposed AD will more accurately reflect the need for the inspections.

We agree. Although an additional cracking event has occurred, the AD was prompted by the investigation of five events. We changed paragraph (d) of this AD to reflect six known cracking events.

Request To Add a Grace Period for Compliance

One commenter, Boeing, asked us to change paragraphs (f)(1)(i) and (f)(1)(iii) of the proposed AD to add “within 15 cycles of the date of issue of the AD” before the word “or.” Boeing states that adding the 15 cycle grace period will give operators time to get back to base for the inspection.

We partially agree. No additional grace period is required. This AD does not require inspecting any engine earlier than 250 cycles after the effective date of the AD. We clarified the wording of paragraph (f) to make this clearer.

Statement of the Possibility of Cost and Operational Impact Increasing

One commenter, Federal Express, stated that cost and operational impact could increase if certain RB211–535 models are added to the applicability of the proposed AD. The commenter provided no reason for its statement.

We agree. However, additional engine models are not being added, and we are specifically excluding the RB211–535 engine in response to another comment. We did not change the AD in response to this comment.

Conclusion

We reviewed the available data, including the comments received, and determined that air safety and the public interest require adopting the AD with the changes described previously. We determined that these changes will not increase the economic burden on any operator or increase the scope of the AD.

Costs of Compliance

Based on the service information, we estimate that this AD will affect about 46 products of U.S. registry. We also estimate that it will take about 1.5 work-hours per product to comply with this AD. The average labor rate is $85 per work-hour. No parts are required so parts will cost $0 per product. Based on these figures, we estimate the cost of the AD on U.S. operators to be $5,865.

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 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.

For the reasons discussed above, 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),
3. Will not affect intrastate aviation in Alaska, and
4. 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 a regulatory evaluation of the estimated costs to comply with this AD and placed it in the AD docket.

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 AD, the regulatory evaluation, any comments received, and other information. The street address for the Docket Operations office (phone: (800) 647–5527) is provided in the ADDRESSES section. Comments will be available in the AD docket shortly after receipt.

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:

1. Add a new paragraph (f)(1)(i) to read as follows: (f) The owner or operator of an engine with seven or more cracks that are cracked more than 0.100 inch shall cease operation of the engine until the cracks have been repaired or the engine has been replaced.
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 November 29, 2011.

Affected ADs

(b) None.

Applicability


Other FAA AD Provisions

(i) Alternative Methods of Compliance (AMOCs): The Manager, Engine Certification Office, FAA, has the authority to approve AMOCs for this AD if requested using the procedures found in 14 CFR 39.19.

Related Information


(k) Rolls-Royce RB211–72–AF458, Revision 4, dated March 9, 2009, or ASB RB211–72–AF458, Revision 5, dated April 20, 2011, provide information on how to do the actions required by this AD.

Material Incorporated by Reference

(m) None.

Definitions

(g) This AD defines LIFE as the lowest of:

(1) The number of cycles-since-new of the combustion liner, or

(2) The number of cycles-in-service (CIS) since replacement of the inner wall, or

(3) The number of CIS since the inner wall of the combustion liner was last borescope-inspected, or inspected by performing paragraph 3.A.(2)(a) of RR Alert Service Bulletin (ASB) RB.211–72–AF458, Revision 4, dated March 9, 2009 or ASB RB.211–72–AF458, Revision 5, dated April 20, 2011.

FAA AD Differences

(h) This AD differs from the Mandatory Continuing Airworthiness Information (MCAI) in that the MCAI AD applies to the RB211–Trent 772C–60 engine, which is not type certified in the United States. The MCAI also allows use of later revisions of the SBs. This AD does not.

Table 1—Initial Inspection Thresholds and Limits

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Engine model</th>
<th>Initial inspection threshold</th>
<th>Initial inspection limit if LIFE is less than the initial inspection threshold</th>
<th>Repeat inspection interval</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>RB211–Trent 768–60, 772–60 and 772B–60</td>
<td>1,250 cycles</td>
<td>1,500 cycles</td>
<td>1,500 cycles.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RB211–Trent 884–17, RB211–Trent 884B–17, RB211–Trent 892–17, RB211–Trent 892B–17 and RB211–Trent 895–17 engines.</td>
<td>750 cycles</td>
<td>1,000 cycles</td>
<td>1,000 cycles.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Reason

(d) This AD results from:

Cracking has been found on the inner wall between intermediate dilution chutes on a total of five front combustion liners of the standard corresponding to Rolls-Royce RB211 Service Bulletin No. 72–D133. The lives of two of these liners were confirmed to be below the currently valid borescope inspection interval. Ultimately, crack propagation could result in hot gas breakout with potential of downstream component distress and multiple turbine blade release beyond containment capabilities of the engine casings. Thus, cracking of this nature constitutes a potentially unsafe condition.

Since Rolls-Royce Service Bulletin No. 72–E902 introduces further developments of Rolls-Royce RB211 Service Bulletin No. 72–D133, engines incorporating Rolls-Royce RB211 Service Bulletin No. 72–E902 are also considered to be potentially affected and are therefore included in the applicability of this AD.

Since EASA issued its AD, another cracking event has occurred, bringing to six the total of crack events of which we are aware. We are issuing this AD to detect cracks in the front combustion liner, which could result in hot section distress, multiple blade release, and possible damage to the airplane.

Actions and Compliance

(e) Unless already done, do the following actions.

Initial Inspection

(f) Perform a borescope inspection of the front combustion liner inner wall, before accumulating the cyclic limits specified in paragraph (j)(2) and (j)(3) of this AD.

(1) If you incorporated paragraph 3.A.(2)(a) of RR Alert Service Bulletin (ASB) RB.211–72–AF458, Revision 4, dated March 9, 2009, or ASB RB.211–72–AF458, Revision 5, dated April 20, 2011, you have satisfied the requirements of paragraph (f) of this AD.

(2) If the engine has a combustion liner installed with:

(i) A LIFE on the effective date of this AD, that is equal to or greater than the initial inspection threshold specified in column (b) of Table 1 of this AD or a LIFE on the effective date of this AD, that is not known, within 250 cycles after the effective date of this AD, perform a borescope inspection as specified in paragraph (f) of this AD.

(ii) A LIFE on the effective date of this AD, that is less than the initial inspection threshold specified in column (b) of Table 1 of this AD, perform the borescope inspection before the LIFE exceeds the limit specified in column (c) of Table 1 of this AD.

Repeat Inspection

(3) Thereafter, repeat the borescope inspection specified in paragraph (f) of this AD at intervals not to exceed the cycles specified in column (d) of Table 1 of this AD.
The Class E airspace areas are published in paragraphs 6002 and 6005, respectively, of FAA Order 7400.9V, Airspace Designations and Reporting Points, signed September 9, 2011, and effective September 15, 2011, which is incorporated by reference in 14 CFR 71.1. The Class E airspace designations listed in this document will be published subsequently in the Order. With the exception of editorial changes, and the changes described above, this rule is the same as that proposed in the NPRM.

The Rule

This action amends Title 14 Code of Federal Regulations (14 CFR) part 71 by establishing Class E airspace at the Tatitlek Airport, Tatitlek, AK, to accommodate the creation of a standard instrument approach procedure at the Tatitlek Airport. The FAA is taking this action to enhance safety and management of Instrument Flight Rules (IFR) operations at the Tatitlek Airport.

DATES:

Effective 0901 UTC, December 21, 2011. The Director of the Federal Register approves this incorporation by reference action under title 1, Code of Federal Regulations, part 51, subject to the annual revision of FAA Order 7400.9 and publication of conforming amendments.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Martha Dunn, AAL–538G, Federal Aviation Administration, 222 West 7th Avenue, Box 14, Anchorage, AK 99513–7567; telephone number (907) 271–5898; fax: (907) 271–2850; e-mail: Martha.citr.Dunn@faa.gov. Internet address: http://www.faa.gov/about/office_org/headquarters_offices/ato/service_units/systemops/fs/alaskan/rulemaking/.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

History

On Wednesday, August 10, 2011, the FAA published a notice of proposed rulemaking (NPRM) in the Federal Register to establish Class E airspace at Tatitlek, AK (76 FR 49388).

Interested parties were invited to participate in this rulemaking proceeding by submitting written comments on the proposal to the FAA. A comment was received that the coordinates for the Tatitlek Airport were incorrect. That error is corrected in this action.