DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Aviation Administration

14 CFR Part 39


RIN 2120–AA64

Airworthiness Directives; General Electric Company (GE) CF6–80C2B Series Turbofan Engines

AGENCY: Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), DOT.

ACTION: Notice of proposed rulemaking (NPRM).

SUMMARY: We propose to supersede an existing airworthiness directive (AD) that applies to all GE CF6–80C2B series turbofan engines. The existing AD currently requires installing software version 8.2.Q1 to the engine electronic control unit (ECU), which increases the engine’s margin to flameout. Since we issued that AD, we have received reports of additional engine events. This proposed AD would require the removal of the affected ECUs from service. We are proposing this AD to prevent engine flameout or un-commanded engine in-flight shutdown (IFSD) of one or more engines, leading to an emergency or forced landing of the airplane.

DATES: We must receive comments on this proposed AD by January 13, 2012.

ADDRESSES: You may send comments, including any personal information you provide, 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, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE., Room W12–140, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE., Washington, DC 20590.

Hand Delivery: Deliver to Mail address above between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays.

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

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:
Tomasz Rakowski, Aerospace Engineer, Engine Certification Office, FAA, Engine & Propeller Directorate, 12 New England Executive Park, Burlington, MA 01803; phone: (781) 238–7735; fax: (781) 238–7199; email: tomasz.rakowski@faa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:
Comments Invited
We invite you to send any written relevant data, views, or arguments about this proposed AD. Send your comments to an address listed under the ADDRESSES section. Include “Docket No. FAA–2006–25738; Directorate Identifier 2006–NE–27–AD” at the beginning of your comments. We specifically invite comments on the overall regulatory, economic, environmental, and energy aspects of this proposed AD. We will consider all comments received by the closing date and may amend this proposed AD because of those comments.
We will post all comments we receive, without change, to http://www.regulations.gov, including any personal information you provide. We will also post a report summarizing each substantive verbal contact we receive about this proposed AD.

Discussion
On May 30, 2007, we issued AD 2007–12–07, Amendment 39–15085 (72 FR 31174, June 6, 2007), for all GE CF6–80C2B series turbofan engines. That AD requires installing software version 8.2.Q1 to the ECU, which increases the engine’s margin to flameout. That AD was prompted by multiple reports of flameout events during flight on engines with an ECU software version preceding version 8.2.Q1, including reports of events where all engines simultaneously experienced a flameout. Investigation showed that exposure to ice crystals during flight was associated with these flameout events. That AD action was intended to minimize the potential of an engine flameout event caused by ice accretion and shedding during flight.

Actions Since Existing AD Was Issued
Since we issued AD 2007–12–07 (72 FR 31174, June 6, 2007), we received two reports of ice crystal condition flameouts on engines equipped with ECU software version 8.2.Q1. Prompted by these reports, GE developed ECU software version 8.2.R with improved inclement weather capability, and enhanced fuel metering valve (FMV) fault handling logic to reduce the risk of engine IFSD caused by intermittent FMV feedback signals.

Subsequently, we received reports of eight engine IFSD events and four engine flameout ground events. These events were caused by ignition system induced noise creating dual-channel faults in the CPU. The event engines were operating with 8.2.Q1 and 8.2.R versions of ECU software and equipped with the new generation of front panel assembly (FPA) and pressure subsystem (PSS) circuit boards. Prompted by these reports, GE developed an ECU hardware fix to eliminate the potential for dual-channel CPU faults due to ignition system-induced noise. This proposed AD supersedes removes the affected ECUs from the fleet. These ECUs, if not corrected, could result in flameout or
un-commanded IFSD of one or more engines, leading to an emergency or forced landing of the airplane.

FAA's Determination
We are proposing 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.

Proposed AD Requirements
This proposed AD would require the removal from service of certain affected ECU part numbers (P/Ns) with software version 8.2.Q1 and prior, which are susceptible to engine flameouts due to inclement weather, and those with the new generation FPA/PSS circuit boards, which are susceptible to IFSD. The proposed compliance times for removal are based on the ECU's degree of susceptibility to engine flameout or IFSD. This proposed AD would allow airplanes from having more than one ECU with P/N 2121M37P02, 2121M38P02, or 2121M41P02, installed.

Costs of Compliance
We estimate that this proposed AD would affect 697 GE CF6–80C2B series turbofan engines installed on airplanes of U.S. registry. We also estimate that it would take about 4 work-hours per engine to perform a removal and replacement of the ECU, and that the average labor rate is $85 per work-hour. A replacement ECU costs about $4,600. Based on these figures, we estimate the total cost of the AD to U.S. operators to be $3,443,180.

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 have determined that this proposed AD would not have federalism implications under Executive Order 13132. This proposed AD would 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, we certify that the proposed regulation:

(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.

List of Subjects in 14 CFR Part 39
Air transportation, Aircraft, Aviation safety, Incorporation by reference, Safety.

The Proposed Amendment
Accordingly, under the authority delegated to me by the Administrator, the FAA proposes to amend 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]
1. The FAA amends § 39.13 by removing airworthiness directive (AD) 2007–12–07, Amendment 39–15085 (72 FR 31174, June 6, 2007), and adding the following new AD:


(a) Comments Due Date
The FAA must receive comments on this AD action by January 13, 2012.

(b) Affected ADs
This AD supersedes AD 2007–12–07, Amendment 39–15085 (72 FR 31174, June 6, 2007).

(c) Applicability

(d) Unsafe Condition
This AD results from:

(1) Two reports of engine flameout events during flight in inclement weather conditions; and

(2) Eight reports of engine in-flight shutdown (IFSD) events caused by dual-channel central processing unit (CPU) faults in the electronic control unit (ECU); and

(3) Four reports of engine flameout ground events.

(e) We are issuing this AD to prevent engine flameout or un-commanded engine IFSD of one or more engines, leading to an emergency or forced landing of the airplane.

(f) Compliance
Comply with this AD within the compliance times specified unless already done.

(g) ECU Removal
(1) Remove from service ECUs with part numbers (P/Ns) listed in Table 1 of this AD, within 6 months or 450 engine flight cycles after the effective date of this AD, whichever occurs first.

Table 1—Affected ECU P/Ns

| 1471M63P01 | 1471M63P02 | 1471M63P03 | 1471M63P04 | 1471M63P05 |
| 1471M63P06 | 1471M63P07 | 1471M63P08 | 1471M63P09 | 1471M63P10 |
| 1471M63P11 | 1471M63P12 | 1471M63P13 | 1471M63P14 | 1471M63P15 |
| 1471M63P16 | 1471M63P17 | 1471M63P18 | 1471M63P19 | 1471M63P20 |
| 1471M63P25 | 1471M63P26 | 1471M63P27 | 1471M63P28 | 1471M63P29 |
| 1471M63P30 | 1471M63P31 | 1471M63P32 | 1471M63P33 | 1471M63P34 |
| 1471M63P35 | 1471M63P36 | 1519M89P01 | 1519M89P02 | 1519M89P03 |
| 1519M89P04 | 1519M89P05 | 1519M89P06 | 1519M89P07 | 1519M89P08 |
| 1519M89P09 | 1519M89P10 | 1519M89P13 | 1519M89P14 | 1519M89P15 |
| 1519M89P16 | 1519M89P17 | 1519M89P19 | 1519M89P20 | 1519M89P21 |
| 1519M89P26 | 1820M33P01 | 1519M89P22 | 1519M89P24 | 1519M89P25 |
| 1820M33P02 | 1820M33P03 | 1820M33P04 | 1820M33P05 | 1820M33P06 |
The Coast Guard proposes a change to drawbridge operations for the Canadian Pacific Railroad Drawbridge across the Black River at Mile 1.0 near La Crosse, Wisconsin. Drawspan is currently operated by an onsite bridge tender, opening on signal following two-hour notification. The proposed change is for drawspan operation by remote operator, opening immediately upon demand.

DATES: Comments and related material must reach the Coast Guard on or before January 13, 2012. A public meeting will be held on November 29, 2011.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments identified by docket number USCG–2011–0937 using any one of the following methods:

(2) Fax: (202) 493–2251.

(4) Hand delivery: Same as mail address above, between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays. The telephone number is (202) 366–9329. Comments can also be delivered in person at the public meeting on November 29, 2011, 6 p.m. at the Black River Beach Neighborhood Center, 1433 Rose Street, La Crosse, WI 54603.

To avoid duplication, please use only one of these four methods. See the “Public Participation and Request for Comments” portion of the SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION section below for instructions on submitting comments.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: If you have questions on this proposed rule, call or email Mr. Eric Washburn, Bridge Administrator, Western Rivers, (314) 269–2378, email Eric.Washburn@uscg.mil. If you have questions on viewing or submitting material to the docket, call Renee V. Wright, Program Manager, Docket Operations, telephone (202) 366–9826.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:
Public Participation and Request for Comments

We encourage you to participate in this rulemaking by submitting comments and related materials. All comments received will be posted, without change to http://www.regulations.gov and will include any personal information you have provided.

Submitting Comments

If you submit a comment, please include the docket number for this rulemaking (USCG–2011–0937), indicate the specific section of this document to which each comment applies, and provide a reason for each suggestion or recommendation. You may submit your comments and material online (http://www.regulations.gov), or by fax, mail or hand delivery, but please use only one of these means. If you submit a comment online via http://www.regulations.gov, it will be considered received by the Coast Guard when you successfully transmit the comment. If you fax, hand deliver, or mail your comment, it will be considered as having been received by the Coast Guard when it is received at the Docket Management Facility. We recommend that you include your name and a mailing address, an email address, or a phone number in the body of your document so that we can contact you if we have questions regarding your submission.

To submit your comment online, go to http://www.regulations.gov, click on the “submit a comment” box, which will then become highlighted in blue. In the “Document Type” drop down menu select “Proposed Rules” and insert

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TABLE 1—AFFECTED ECU P/Ns—Continued</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1820M33P05</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(2) Remove from service ECUs with P/N 2121M37P01, 2121M37P02, 2121M38P01, 2121M38P02, 2121M41P01 and 2121M41P02, within 14 months or 1,050 engine flight cycles after the effective date of this AD, whichever occurs first.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(3) Remove from service ECUs with P/Ns listed in Table 2 of this AD, within 60 months or 4,500 engine flight cycles after the effective date of this AD, whichever occurs first.</td>
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</tbody>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TABLE 2—AFFECTED ECU P/Ns</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1471M63P37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1519M89P27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1820M33P10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2121M25P01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2121M29P02</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(h) Installation Prohibition</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(1) After the effective date of this AD, do not install any ECU P/N listed in Table 1 of this AD onto any airplane.
(2) After the effective date of this AD, do not operate any airplane with more than one ECU, P/N 2121M37P02, 2121M38P02, or 2121M41P02, installed.

(i) Alternative Methods of Compliance (AMOCs)

The Manager, Engine Certification Office, FAA, may approve AMOCs for this AD. Use the procedures in 14 CFR 39.19 to make your request.

(j) Related Information

For more information about this AD, contact Tomasz Rakowski, Aerospace Engineer, Engine Certification Office, FAA, Engine & Propeller Directorate, 12 New England Executive Park, Burlington, MA 01803; phone: (781) 238–7735; fax: (781) 238–7199; email: tomasz.rakowski@faa.gov.

Issued in Burlington, Massachusetts, on November 3, 2011.

Peter A. White,
Manager, Engine & Propeller Directorate,
Aerospace Certification Service.
[FR Doc. 2011–29228 Filed 11–10–11; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 4910–13–P

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY
Coast Guard

33 CFR Part 117
[Docket No. USCG–2011–0937]
RIN 1625–AA09

Drawbridge Operation Regulation; Black River, La Crosse, WI

AGENCY: Coast Guard, DHS.

ACTION: Notice of proposed rulemaking and public meeting.

SUMMARY: The Coast Guard proposes a change to drawbridge operations for the Canadian Pacific Railroad Drawbridge...