DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Aviation Administration

14 CFR Part 39


RIN 2120–AA64

Airworthiness Directives; Pratt & Whitney Canada Corp Turboshaft Engines

AGENCY: Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), DOT.

ACTION: Notice of proposed rulemaking (NPRM).

SUMMARY: We propose to adopt a new airworthiness directive (AD) for certain Pratt & Whitney Canada Corp. (P&W) PT6C–67C turboshaft engines. This proposed AD was prompted by five reported incidents of second stage power turbine (PT) disk damage. This proposed AD would require initial and repetitive borescope inspections to verify the presence of a retaining ring securing the PT baffle located near the second stage PT disk. If the engine fails the inspection, this proposed AD would also require removing the engine from service before further flight. We are proposing this AD to prevent damage to the PT disk which, if undetected, could cause uncontained PT disk failure and loss of control of the helicopter.

DATES: We must receive comments on this proposed AD by December 24, 2012.

ADDRESSES: You may send comments by any of the following methods:

- Federal eRulemaking Portal: Go to http://www.regulations.gov and follow the instructions for sending your comments electronically.
- Hand Delivery: Deliver to Mail Operations, Docket Operations, Federal Aviation Administration, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE., West Building Ground Floor, Room W12–140, Washington, DC 20590–0001.葡萄酒
- Federal eRulemaking Portal: Go to http://www.regulations.gov; or person at the Docket Operations office between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:


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–2012–1005; Directorate Identifier 2012–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 based on 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 with FAA personnel concerning this proposed AD. Using the search function of the Web site, anyone can find and read the comments in any of our dockets, including, if provided, the name of the individual who sent the comment (or signed the comment on behalf of an association, business, labor union, etc.). You may review the DOT’s complete Privacy Act Statement in the Federal Register published on April 11, 2000 (65 FR 19477–78).

Discussion

The Transport Canada, which is the aviation authority for Canada, has issued Canada AD CF–2012–24, dated August 2, 2012 (referred to after this as “the MCAI”), to correct an unsafe condition for the specified products. The MCAI states:

There have been 5 reported incidents of second stage Power Turbine (PT) disk damage caused by the PT baffle moving and contacting the downstream side of the second stage PT disk. In two of these incidents, the PT section of the engine failed to rotate (on ground) as a result of baffle interference. An investigation has determined that the root cause for the PT baffle displacement and the resultant PT disk damage was due to the failure of the retaining ring that holds the PT baffle in its intended position.

This proposed AD would only apply to P&W PT6C–67C turboshaft engines that have not had P&W Service Bulletin No. PT6C–72–41056 incorporated. You may obtain further information by examining the MCAI in the AD docket.

Relevant Service Information

P&W has issued Alert Service Bulletin (SB) No. PT6C–72–A41060, Revision 2, dated February 10, 2012. P&W has also issued SB No. PT6C–72–41056, Revision 4, dated February 13, 2012. The actions described in this service information are intended to correct the unsafe condition identified in the MCAI.

FAA’s Determination and Requirements of This Proposed AD

This product has been approved by the aviation authority of Canada, and is approved for operation in the United States. Pursuant to our bilateral agreement with Canada, they have notified us of the unsafe condition described in the MCAI and service information referenced above. We are issuing this proposed AD because we evaluated all information provided by Canada and determined the unsafe condition exists and is likely to exist or develop on other products of the same type design.
This proposed AD would require initial and repetitive borescope inspections to verify the presence of a retaining ring securing the PT baffle located near the second stage PT disk. If the engine fails the inspection, this proposed AD would also require removing the engine from service before further flight.

**Differences Between This Proposed AD and the MCAI**

This proposed AD would not require engine modification at the next scheduled overhaul, as the MCAI requires. This proposed AD would require different inspection intervals from the MCAI. We changed the inspection intervals to ensure that our proposed AD is clear for U.S. operators.

**Costs of Compliance**

We estimate that this proposed AD would affect about 220 engines installed on helicopters of U.S. registry. We also estimate that it would take about six hours per engine to perform one inspection required by this proposed AD. The average labor rate is $85 per hour. We anticipate that two engines would fail the initial inspection. Required parts would cost about $224,636 per engine. Based on these figures, we estimate the cost of the proposed AD on U.S. operators to be $561,472. Our cost estimate is exclusive of possible warranty coverage.

**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 civilian 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 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, I certify this 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); 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.

We prepared a regulatory evaluation of the estimated costs to comply with this proposed AD and placed it in the AD docket.

**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]**

2. The FAA amends §39.13 by adding the following new AD:


   **(a) Comments Due Date**

   We must receive comments by December 24, 2012.

   **(b) Affected Airworthiness Directives (ADs)**

   None.

   **(c) Applicability**

   This AD applies to Pratt & Whitney Canada Corp. (P&W) PT6C–67C turboshaft engines that have not had P&W Service Bulletin No. PT6C–72–41056 incorporated.

   **(d) Reason**

   This AD was prompted by five reported incidents of second stage power turbine (PT) disk damage. We are issuing this AD to prevent damage to the PT disk which, if undetected, could cause uncontained PT disk failure and loss of control of the helicopter.

   **(e) Actions and Compliance**

   Unless already done, do the following actions:

   **(f) Borescope Inspections**

   (1) Borescope-inspect to verify the presence of a retaining ring securing the PT baffle located near the second stage PT disk, as follows:

   (i) For engines with 2,200 PT cycles or more on the effective date of this AD, inspect within 800 operating hours or 150 PT cycles, whichever occurs first.

   (ii) For engines with more than 1,400 PT cycles but fewer than 2,200 PT cycles on the effective date of this AD, inspect within 250 operating hours, 350 PT cycles, or before exceeding 2,350 PT cycles, whichever occurs first.

   (iii) For engines with 1,400 PT cycles or fewer on the effective date of this AD, inspect within 500 operating hours, 750 PT cycles, or before exceeding 1,750 PT cycles, whichever occurs first.

   (2) Thereafter, repetitively borescope-inspect to verify the presence of the retaining ring securing the PT baffle located near the second stage PT disk, on or before an additional 600 flight hours or 900 PT cycles, whichever occurs first.

   (3) Use P&W Alert SB No. PT6C–72–41060, Revision 2, dated February 10, 2012, paragraphs A.1 through A.6 to do the borescope inspections required by this AD.

   (4) If the retaining ring is missing or the PT baffle is out of position; then remove the engine from service before further flight.

   **(g) Optional Terminating Action**

   Performing the engine improvement modifications in P&W Service Bulletin No. PT6C–72–41056, Revision 4, dated February 13, 2012, paragraphs A.4 through A.6, and A.1 through A.15, is an optional terminating action to the repetitive inspections required by this AD.

   **(h) Credit for Actions Accomplished in Accordance With Previous Service Information**

   (1) If you performed the initial borescope inspection before the effective date of this AD using P&W Special Instruction No. 45–2011R2, dated July 27, 2011, or P&W Alert SB No. PT6C–72–41060, dated August 12, 2011, or Revision 1, dated September 29, 2011, you met the requirements of paragraph (f)(1) of this AD.

   (2) If you performed the engine modification in P&W Service Bulletin No. PT6C–72–41056, dated April 1, 2011, or Revision 1, dated June 17, 2011, or Revision 2, dated October 6, 2011, or Revision 3, dated February 3, 2012, you met the requirements of this AD and further action is not required.

   **(i) Alternative Methods of Compliance (AMOCs)**

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

   **(j) Related Information**

(2) Refer to Transport Canada AD CF–2012–24, dated August 2, 2012, for related information.

(3) For service information identified in this AD, contact Pratt & Whitney Canada Corp., 1000 Marie-Victorin, Longueuil, Quebec J4G 1A1; phone 800–268–8800; fax 438–647–2888; Web site: www.pwc.ca. You may review copies of the referenced service information at the FAA, Engine & Propeller Directorate, 12 New England Executive Park, Burlington, MA. For information on the availability of this material at the FAA, call 781–238–7125.

Issued in Burlington, Massachusetts, on October 16, 2012.

Carlos Pestana, Acting Manager, Engine & Propeller Directorate, Aircraft Certification Service.

[F.R. Doc. 2012–26277 Filed 10–24–12; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910–13–P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Aviation Administration

14 CFR Part 39


RIN 2120–AA64

Airworthiness Directives; Embraer S.A. Airplanes

AGENCY: Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), DOT.

ACTION: Notice of proposed rulemaking (NPRM).

SUMMARY: We propose to adopt a new airworthiness directive (AD) for certain Embraer S.A. Model ERJ 170 and ERJ 190 airplanes. This proposed AD was prompted by reports of failures of the emergency slide on the forward passenger door, which prevented the door from opening. This proposed AD would require repetitive re-packing of certain forward door escape slides. We are proposing this AD to prevent failure of the emergency slide, preventing the forward passenger door from opening, which could result in impeded emergency evacuation and possible subsequent injury to passengers and flight crew.

DATES: We must receive comments on this proposed AD by December 10, 2012.

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.
• 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, between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays.

For EMBRAER service information identified in this proposed AD, contact Embraer S.A., Technical Publications Section (PC 060), Av. Brigadeiro Faria Lima, 2170–Portin—12227–901 São José dos Campos—SP—BRASIL; telephone +55 12 3927–5852 or +55 12 3309–0732; fax +55 12 3927–7546; email distrib@embraer.com.br; Internet http://www.flyembraer.com. For Goodrich service information identified in this proposed AD, contact Goodrich Corporation, Aircraft Interior Products, ATTN: Technical Publications, 3414 South Fifth Street, Phoenix, Arizona 85040; telephone 602–243–2270; email george.yribarren@goodrich.com; Internet http://www.goodrich.com/TechPubs. You may review copies of the referenced service information at the FAA, Transport Airplane Directorate, 1601 Lind Avenue SW., Renton, WA. 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 Operations office 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 Operations 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:


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–2012–1108; Directorate Identifier 2011–NM–283–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 based on 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

The Agência Nacional de Aviação Civil (ANAC), which is the aviation authority for Brazil, has issued Brazilian Airworthiness Directives 2011–12–01 and 2011–12–02, both effective December 27, 2011 (referred to after this as “the MCAI”), to correct an unsafe condition for the specified products. MCAI Brazilian Airworthiness Directive 2011–12–01 states:

During operational checks of escape slide P/N 4A4030–5, some operators have reported failure in the escape slide preventing the forward passenger door opening. This [Brazilian] AD is being issued to prevent failure of this system which could impede an emergency evacuation and increase the chance of injury to passengers and flight crew.

* * * * *

MCAI Brazilian Airworthiness Directive 2011–12–02 states:

During scheduled deployment tests of escape slide P/N 104005–2, some operators have reported failure in the escape slide preventing the forward passenger door opening. This [Brazilian] AD is being issued to prevent failure of this system which could impede an emergency evacuation and increase the chance of injury to passengers and flight crew.

* * * * *

The required action is repetitive re-packing of certain forward door escape slides. You may obtain further information by examining the MCAI in the AD docket.

Relevant Service Information

Goodrich has issued Alert Service Bulletins 4A4030–25A402 and 104003–25A403, both dated June 30, 2011. Embraer S.A. has issued Section 1 of EMBRAER 170 Maintenance Review Board Report, MRB–1621, Revision 7, dated November 11, 2010; and Section 1 of EMBRAER 190 Maintenance Review Board Report, MRB–1928, Revision 5, dated November 11, 2010. The actions described in this service information are intended to correct the unsafe condition identified in the MCAI.