BILLY E. PENSKE, Acting Administrator.

AGENCY: Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), DOT.

ACTION: Final rule.

SUMMARY: We are adopting a new airworthiness directive (AD) for Eurocopter France (Eurocopter) Model EC130 B4 helicopters with a cabin vibration damper installed. This AD requires installing a vibration damper casing assembly on both sides of the helicopter. This AD was prompted by a crack and failure of a cabin vibration damper blade. The actions of this AD are intended to modify the cabin vibration damper assembly to prevent contact with the flight controls in the event of a cabin vibration blade failure, jamming of a flight control, and subsequent loss of control of the helicopter.

DATES: This AD is effective April 30, 2013.

The Director of the Federal Register approved the incorporation by reference (IBR) of the service information listed in this paragraph under 5 U.S.C. 552(a) and 1 CFR part 51.

You must use this service information as applicable to do the actions required by this AD, unless the AD specifies otherwise.

(i) Agusta Alert Bollettino Tecnico No. 109K–5, dated July 26, 2006;
(iv) Agusta Alert Bollettino Tecnico No. 109–122, dated July 27, 2006; and

For Agusta service information identified in this AD, contact Agusta Westland, Customer Support & Services, Via Per Tornante 15, 21019 Somma Lombardo (VA) Italy, ATTN: Giovanni Cocchelli; telephone 39 (0331) 711133; fax 39 (0331) 711180; or at http://www.agustawestland.com/technical-bulletins.

The EASA AD requires two daily visual inspections for cracks in the blade of each cabin vibration damper and replacement of a blade if there is a crack; this AD does not. The EASA AD and the proposed requirements were intended to prevent contact with the flight controls in the event of a cabin vibration blade failure, jamming of a flight control, and subsequent loss of control of the helicopter.

The European Aviation Safety Agency (EASA), which is the Technical Agent for the Member States of the European Union, issued EASA AD No. 2006-0278, dated September 7, 2006 (AD 2006–0278), to correct an unsafe condition for the Eurocopter Model EC130 B4 helicopter. EASA advises of a cracked cabin vibration damper blade, which could lead to jamming of a flight control.

Comments

We gave the public the opportunity to participate in developing this AD, but we did not receive any comments on the NPRM (77 FR 43738, July 26, 2012).

FAA’s Determination

This helicopter has been approved by the aviation authority of France and is approved for operation in the United States. Pursuant to our bilateral agreement with France, EASA, its technical representative, has notified us of the unsafe condition described in the EASA AD. We are issuing this AD because we evaluated all information provided by EASA and determined the unsafe condition exists and is likely to exist or develop on other helicopters of the same type design and that air safety and the public interest require adopting the AD requirements as proposed.

Differences Between This AD and the EASA AD

The EASA AD requires two daily visual inspections for cracks in the blade of each cabin vibration damper and replacement of a blade if there is a crack; this AD does not. The EASA AD requires compliance by a calendar date. This AD requires compliance within 100 hours time-in-service.

Related Service Information

Eurocopter has issued Alert Service Bulletin (ASB) No. 53A008, Revision 0, dated July 19, 2006 (ASB 53A008), which supersedes ASB No. 65A002, Revision 0, dated July 18, 2006, and specifies installing a cabin vibration damper containment device. EASA classified ASB 53A008 as mandatory and issued AD 2006–0278 to ensure the
continued airworthiness of these helicopters.

Costs of Compliance
We estimate that this AD will affect 122 helicopters of U.S. Registry.
We estimate that operators may incur the following costs in order to comply with this AD.

- $340 for 4 work-hours to install a vibration damper casing assembly at an average labor rate of $85 per work-hour,
- $1,500 for required parts per helicopter, and
- $224,480 total cost for the fleet.

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 helicopters 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 responsibilities among the various levels of government.

For the reasons discussed above, I certify that this AD—
(1) Is not a “significant regulatory action” under Executive Order 12866; and
(2) Is not a “significant rule” under DOT Regulatory Policies and Procedures (44 FR 11034, February 26, 1979); and
(3) Will not affect intrastate aviation in Alaska to the extent that it justifies making a regulatory distinction; 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 an economic evaluation of the estimated costs to comply with this 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.

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

§ 39.13 [Amended]
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 airworthiness directive (AD):

2013–05–21 Eurocopter France:

(a) Applicability
This AD applies to Model EC130 B4 helicopters with a cabin vibration damper blade. This condition could result in failure of the blade, jamming of the flight controls, and subsequent loss of control of the helicopter.

(b) Unsafe Condition
This AD defines the unsafe condition as a cracked cabin vibration damper blade. This condition could result in failure of the blade, jamming of the flight controls, and subsequent loss of control of the helicopter.

(c) Effective Date
This AD becomes effective April 30, 2013.

(d) Compliance
You are responsible for performing each action required by this AD within the specified compliance time unless it has already been accomplished prior to that time.

(e) Required Actions
Within the next 100 hours time-in-service:
(1) For helicopters that have not been modified in accordance with Modification 073525, install a vibration damper casing assembly on both sides of the helicopter by following paragraphs 2.B.2.a and 2.B.5 of the Accomplishment Instructions of Eurocopter Alert Service Bulletin No. 53A008, dated July 19, 2006 (ASB 53A008).
(2) For helicopters that have been modified in accordance with Modification 073521 or Modification 073525 either at the time of manufacture or pursuant to Eurocopter Service Bulletin (SB) No. 53–006, Revision 1, dated September 30, 2004; or Modification 073552 either at the time of manufacture or pursuant to Eurocopter SB No. 53–007, Revision 1, dated February 19, 2007, install a vibration damper casing assembly on both sides of the helicopter by following paragraphs 2.B.3.a, 2.B.3.b, and 2.B.5 of the Accomplishment Instructions of ASB 53A008.

(f) Alternative Methods of Compliance (AMOCs)
(1) The Manager, Safety Management Group, FAA, may approve AMOCs for this AD. Send your proposal to: Gary Roach, Aviation Safety Engineer, Regulations and Policy Group, Rotorcraft Directorate, FAA, 2601 Meacham Blvd., Fort Worth, Texas 76137; telephone (817) 222–5110; email gary.b.roach@faa.gov.
(2) For operations conducted under a 14 CFR part 119 operating certificate or under 14 CFR part 91, subpart K, we suggest that you notify your principal inspector, or lacking a principal inspector, the manager of the local flight standards district office or certificate holding district office, before operating any aircraft complying with this AD through an AMOC.

(g) Additional Information
(1) Eurocopter SB No. 53–006, Revision 1, dated September 30, 2004; SB No. 53–007, Revision 1, dated February 19, 2007; and Alert SB No. 05A002, Revision 0, dated July 18, 2006, which are not incorporated by reference, contain additional information about the subject of this AD. For service information identified in this AD, contact American Eurocopter Corporation, 2701 N. Forum Drive, Grand Prairie, Texas 75052; telephone (972) 641–0000 or (800) 232–0323; fax (972) 641–5775; or at http://www.eurocopter.com/techpub.
You may review a copy of the service information at the FAA, Office of the Regional Counsel, Southwest Region, 2601 Meacham Blvd., Room 663, Fort Worth, Texas 76137.
(2) The subject of this AD is addressed in European Aviation Safety Agency AD No. 2006–0278, dated September 7, 2006.

(h) Subject

(i) Material Incorporated by Reference
(1) The Director of the Federal Register approved the incorporation by reference (IBR) of the service information listed in this paragraph under 5 U.S.C. 552(a) and 1 CFR part 51.
(2) You must use this service information as applicable to do the actions required by this AD, unless the AD specifies otherwise.
(ii) Reserved.
(3) For Eurocopter service information identified in this AD, contact American Eurocopter Corporation, 2701 N. Forum Drive, Grand Prairie, Texas 75052; telephone (972) 641–0000 or (800) 232–0323; fax (972) 641–3775; or at http://www.eurocopter.com/techpub.
(4) You may view this service information at FAA, Office of the Regional Counsel, Southwest Region, 2601 Meacham Blvd., Room 663, Fort Worth, Texas 76137. For information on the availability of this material at the FAA, call (817) 222–5110.
(5) You may view this 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...
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Aviation Administration

14 CFR Part 71

[Docket No. FAA–2013–0179; Airspace Docket No. 05–AGL–6]

RIN 2120–AA66

Amendment of VOR Federal Airway V–233, Springfield, IL

AGENCY: Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), DOT.

ACTION: Final rule, technical amendment.

SUMMARY: This action amends VHF Omnidirectional Range (VOR) Federal Airway V–233 in the vicinity of Springfield, IL. The FAA is taking this action to correct the V–233 description contained in Part 71 to ensure it matches the information contained in the FAA’s aeronautical database, matches the depiction on the associated charts, and ensures the safety and efficiency of the National Airspace System (NAS).

DATES: Effective date 0901 UTC March 26, 2013. The Director of the Federal Register approves this incorporation by reference action under 1 CFR part 51, subject to the annual revision of FAA Order 7400.9 and publication of conforming amendments.


SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

History

After a recent review of aeronautical data, the Aeronautical Navigation Products Group identified the VOR Federal airway V–233 description did not match the airway information contained in the FAA’s aeronautical database or the charted depiction of the airway. When V–233 was amended in the Federal Register of August 8, 2005 (70 FR 45527), the airway was realigned to reflect a radial change due to the relocation of the Spinner VHF Omnidirectional Range Tactical Air Navigation (VORTAC) navigation aid. However, the final rule erroneously used the magnetic radial information from the Spinner VORTAC to describe the fix between the Spinner VORTAC and the Roberts VOR/Distance Measuring Equipment (VOR/DME) navigation aids instead of the true radial information that should have been used. The FAA aeronautical database contains the correct radial information for describing the airway fix between the Spinner VORTAC and Roberts VOR/DME in the airway description and the associated aeronautical charts remain published correctly. To overcome any confusion or flight safety issues associated with conflicting airway description information being published, the FAA is amending the V–233 legal description to reflect the correct Spinner VORTAC radial information.

The Rule

The FAA amends Title 14 Code of Federal Regulations (14 CFR) part 71 by amending the legal description of VOR Federal airway V–233 in the vicinity of Springfield, IL. Specifically, the FAA amends V–233 to reflect the true radial information from the Spinner VORTAC (061° radial) to describe the fix between the Spinner VORTAC and Roberts VOR/DME navigation aids; thus, matching the information currently contained in the FAA’s aeronautical database and the charted depiction of the airway.

VOR Federal airways are listed in paragraph 6010 of FAA Order 7400.9W dated August 8, 2012, and effective September 15, 2012, which is incorporated by reference in 14 CFR 71.1. The VOR Federal airway listed in this document will be revised subsequently in the Order. Accordingly, since this is an administrative correction to update the V–233 description to be in concert with the FAA’s aeronautical database and charting, notice and public procedures under Title 5 U.S.C. 553(b) are unnecessary.

The FAA has determined that this regulation only involves an established body of technical regulations for which frequent and routine amendments are necessary to keep them operationally current. Therefore, this regulation: (1) Is not a “significant regulatory action” under Executive Order 12866; (2) is not a “significant rule” under Department of Transportation (DOT) Regulatory Policies and Procedures (44 FR 11034; February 26, 1979); and (3) does not warrant preparation of a regulatory evaluation as the anticipated impact is so minimal. Since this is a routine matter that will only affect air traffic procedures and air navigation, it is certified that this rule, when promulgated, will not have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities under the criteria of the Regulatory Flexibility Act.

The FAA’s authority to issue rules regarding aviation safety is found in Title 49 of the United States Code. 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. This rulemaking is promulgated under the authority described in Subtitle VII, Part A, Subpart I, Section 40103. Under that section, the FAA is charged with prescribing regulations to assign the use of the airspace necessary to ensure the safety of aircraft and the efficient use of airspace. This regulation is within the scope of that authority as it amends an existing VOR Federal airway within the NAS.

Environmental Review

The FAA has determined that this action qualifies for categorical exclusion under the National Environmental Policy Act in accordance with 311a, FAA Order 1050.1E, “Environmental Impacts: Policies and Procedures.” This airspace action is not expected to cause any potentially significant environmental impacts, and no extraordinary circumstances exist that warrant preparation of an environmental assessment.

List of Subjects in 14 CFR Part 71

Airspace, Incorporation by reference, Navigation (air).

Adoption of the Amendment

In consideration of the foregoing, the Federal Aviation Administration amends 14 CFR part 71 as follows:

PART 71—DESIGNATION OF CLASS A, B, C, D, AND E AIRSPACE AREAS; AIR TRAFFIC SERVICE ROUTES; AND REPORTING POINTS

§71.1 [Amended]

1. The authority citation for 14 CFR part 71 continues to read as follows:


§71.1 [Amended]

2. The incorporation by reference in 14 CFR 71.1 of FAA Order 7400.9W, Airspace Designations and Reporting Points, signed August 8, 2012, and