10,000 total flight hours, whichever occurs first.

(h) Retained Follow-on Action With Revised Service Information

This paragraph restates the requirements of paragraph (h) of AD 2011–13–08, Amendment 39–16731 (76 FR 37253, June 27, 2011), with revised service information. If, during the check required by paragraph (g) of this AD, the bearing free-play is within the limits specified in Bombardier Service Bulletin 84–27–52, dated May 25, 2010, or Revision A, dated March 5, 2012; no further action is required by this AD. As of the effective date of this AD, only Bombardier Service Bulletin 84–27–52, Revision A, dated March 5, 2012, may be used to accomplish the actions required by this paragraph.

(i) Retained Corrective Actions With Revised Service Information

This paragraph restates the requirements of paragraph (i) of AD 2011–13–08, Amendment 39–16731 (76 FR 37253, June 27, 2011), with revised service information. If, during the check required by paragraph (g) of this AD, the bearing free-play exceeds the limits specified in Bombardier Service Bulletin 84–27–52, dated May 25, 2010; or Revision A, dated March 5, 2012; before further flight, replace the elevator PCU with a serviceable one, in accordance with paragraph 3.B., Part B, of Bombardier Service Bulletin 84–27–52, dated May 25, 2010; or Revision A, dated March 5, 2012; as of the effective date of this AD, only Bombardier Service Bulletin 84–27–52, Revision A, dated March 5, 2012, may be used to accomplish the actions required by this paragraph.

(j) New Free-Play Check

For airplanes having S/N 4305 through 4334 inclusive, and 4336; At the applicable time specified in paragraphs (j)(1) and (j)(2) of this AD, perform a free-play check for any shawged bearing having P/N MS14103–7 that is installed in the tailstock end of each elevator PCU (three PCUs per elevator surface), having P/Ns 390600–1007 and 390600–1008 in accordance with paragraph 3.B., Part A, of Bombardier Service Bulletin 84–27–52, Revision A, dated March 5, 2012.

(1) For airplanes that have accumulated 8,000 or more total flight hours as of the effective date of this AD; Within 2,000 flight hours after the effective date of this AD.

(2) For airplanes that have accumulated less than 8,000 total flight hours as of the effective date of this AD; Within 6,000 flight hours after the effective date of this AD, or before the accumulation of 10,000 total flight hours, whichever occurs first.

(k) New Corrective Actions

During the check required by paragraph (j) of this AD, if the bearing free-play is found to exceed the limits specified in Bombardier Service Bulletin 84–27–52, Revision A, dated March 5, 2012; before further flight, replace the elevator PCU with a serviceable one, in accordance with paragraph 3.B., Part B, of Bombardier Service Bulletin 84–27–52, Revision A, dated March 5, 2012.

(l) Other FAA AD Provisions

The following provisions also apply to this AD:

(1) Alternative Methods of Compliance (AMOCs): The Manager, New York Aircraft Certification Office (ACO), ANE–170, FAA, has the authority to approve AMOCs for this AD, if requested using the procedures found in 14 CFR 39.19. In accordance with 14 CFR 39.19, send your request to your principal inspector or local Flight Standards District Office, as appropriate. If sending information directly to the ACO, send it to Program Manager, Continuing Operational Safety, FAA, New York ACO, 1600 Stewart Avenue, Suite 410, Westbury, NY 11590; telephone (516) 228–7300; fax (516) 794–5531. Before using any approved AMOC, notify your appropriate principal inspector, or lacking a principal inspector, the manager of the local flight standards district office/certificate holding district office. The AMOC approval letter must specifically reference this AD.

(2) Airworthy Product: For any requirement in this AD to obtain corrective actions from a manufacturer or other source, use these actions if they are FAA-approved. Corrective actions are considered FAA-approved if they are approved by the State of Design Authority (or their delegated agent). You are required to assure the product is airworthy before it is returned to service.

(m) Related Information


(n) 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.

(3) The following service information was approved for IBR on August 26, 2013.


(ii) Reserved.

(4) The following service information was approved for IBR on August 1, 2011 (76 FR 37325, June 27, 2011).


(ii) Reserved.


(6) You may view copies of the 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.

(7) 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 202–741–6030, or go to: http://www.archives.gov/federal-register/cfr/ibr-locations.html.

Issued in Renton, Washington, on June 21, 2013.

Jeffrey E. Duven,
Acting Manager, Transport Airplane Directorate, Aircraft Certification Service.

[FR Doc. 2013–17210 Filed 7–19–13; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910–13–P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Aviation Administration

14 CFR Part 39

[90–252–AA64

Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes

AGENCY: Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), DOT.

ACTION: Final rule.

SUMMARY: We are adopting a new airworthiness directive (AD) for certain The Boeing Company Model 747–400 and 747–400F series airplanes. This AD was prompted by reports of cracking in the outboard flange of the longeron extension fittings, which attach to the wing-to-body fairing support frame. This AD requires repetitive inspections of the longeron extension fittings for cracking, and corrective actions if necessary. We are issuing this AD to detect and correct cracks in the longeron extension fittings, which can become large and adversely affect the structural integrity of the airplane.

DATES: This AD is effective August 26, 2013.

The Director of the Federal Register approved the incorporation by reference of a certain publication listed in the AD as of August 26, 2013.

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 AD, the regulatory evaluation, any 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:

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Discussion

We issued a notice of proposed rulemaking (NPRM) to amend 14 CFR part 39 to include an AD that would apply to the specified products. The NPRM published in the Federal Register on March 7, 2013 (78 FR 14731). The NPRM proposed to require repetitive inspections of the longeron extension fittings for cracking, and corrective actions if necessary.

Comments

We gave the public the opportunity to participate in developing this AD. The following presents the comments received on the proposal (78 FR 14731, March 7, 2013) and the FAA’s response to each comment. United Airlines (UAL) did not have any technical comments regarding the NPRM (78 FR 14731, March 7, 2013).

Request to Change Applicability

UPS and Virgin Atlantic Airways (VIR) stated that airplane line numbers 1199 through 1419 inclusive are included in the effectiveness of Boeing Alert Service Bulletin 747–53A2860, dated December 4, 2012, and that the applicability of the NPRM (78 FR 14731, March 7, 2013) includes airplane line numbers 1076 through 1419 inclusive. The commenters noted that Boeing Alert Service Bulletin 747–53A2860, dated December 4, 2012, does not provide inspection or repair instructions for airplanes with line numbers prior to 1199. UPS requested that paragraph (c), “Applicability,” be changed to include line numbers 1076 through 1419 inclusive. The commenters noted that Boeing Alert Service Bulletin 747–53A2860, dated December 4, 2012, does not provide inspection or repair instructions for airplanes with line numbers prior to 1199. UPS requested that paragraph (c), “Applicability,” be changed to include line numbers 1076 through 1419 inclusive.

Boeing requested that changes be made to paragraph (c), “Applicability,” and paragraph (i)(3), “Exceptions to Service Bulletin Specifications,” of the NPRM (78 FR 14731, March 7, 2013), in regard to the applicability. Boeing noted that line number 1076, included in paragraph (c), “Applicability,” does not align with any production line changes and the line numbers should be changed from 1076 through 1419 inclusive to 1097 through 1419 inclusive.

Boeing stated that paragraph (i)(3) of the NPRM (78 FR 14731, March 7, 2013) should be revised to clearly define the applicable airplanes because, as written, it could be interpreted to include more than the appropriate airplanes. Boeing requested that paragraph (i)(3) of the NPRM be revised to state “For airplanes not identified in Boeing Alert Service Bulletin 747–53A2860, dated December 4, 2012, but are included in paragraph (c) of this AD, the airplanes are in Group 1 of the subject service bulletin for the purposes of this AD and are required to do the applicable actions specified in the Accomplishment Instructions of Boeing Alert Service Bulletin 747–53A2860, dated December 4, 2012.”

We agree with Boeing’s position regarding paragraphs (c) and (i)(3) of this final rule. We had conservatively established the applicability as starting at line number 1076 based on the information available at the time the NPRM (78 FR 14731, March 7, 2013) was issued. Since that time, Boeing has determined that the manufacturing change started at line number 1097. Boeing advised that Boeing Alert Service Bulletin 747–53A2860, dated December 4, 2012, will be revised and the effectivity in that service bulletin will be changed to start with line number 1097. Based on this information, we revised paragraph (c) in this final rule to include line numbers 1097 through 1419 inclusive. We revised paragraph (i)(3) in this final rule to include text similar to that proposed by Boeing.

We do not agree with UPS and VIR that the applicability of this final rule should match the effectiveness in Boeing Alert Service Bulletin 747–53A2860, dated December 4, 2012. As stated previously, Boeing advised us that Boeing Alert Service Bulletin 747–53A2860, dated December 4, 2012, will be revised and the effectivity in the revised service bulletin will start with line number 1097. We have not changed this final rule in this regard.

Request to Clarify the Difference in the Line Numbers Between the Service Information and the NPRM (78 FR 14731, March 7, 2013)

Boeing requested changes to the Discussion section of the NPRM (78 FR 14731, March 7, 2013) to clarify the differences between the airplane line numbers (1199 through 1419 inclusive) identified in Boeing Alert Service Bulletin 747–53A2860, dated December 4, 2012, and the airplane line numbers (1076 through 1419 inclusive) identified in paragraph (c) of the NPRM (78 FR 14731, March 7, 2013). Boeing stated that, after the release of Boeing Alert Service Bulletin 747–53A2860, dated December 4, 2012, a crack was reported on airplane line number 1101 and that the longeron extension fitting had been redesigned at line number 1097.

Boeing suggested that the text “...” be changed to “...” Subsequent analysis by Boeing indicated that the cracks were caused by fatigue combined with preload stress from improper fit-up during assembly. A manufacturing process change that began at line number 1199 might have resulted in preloading the longeron extension fittings ...” be changed to “...” Subsequent review by Boeing has shown that the reported cracking correlates with this design change made at line number 1097.”

We agree that the suggestions made by Boeing provide a more accurate description of how the affected line numbers were determined; however, this information is not restated in the Discussion section of this final rule, so no change is needed. The line numbers were changed from 1076 through 1419 inclusive to 1097 through 1419 inclusive in paragraph (c). “Applicability,” of this final rule, as explained previously.

Concern Regarding Parts Availability

UAL stated that Boeing Alert Service Bulletin 747–53A2860, dated December 4, 2012, does not include price and supply data for replacement longeron fittings. UAL asked if operators are expected to fabricate these replacement fittings. UAL noted that, if operators do not have the capabilities to fabricate fittings, it could be difficult for those operators to get parts.

We acknowledge the commenter’s concern regarding the availability of replacement longeron fittings. Boeing Alert Service Bulletin 747–53A2860, dated December 4, 2012, lists other available options as alternatives to replacing longeron extension fittings. The availability of required parts was considered when developing the compliance time for this AD. We have
contacted Boeing regarding parts availability and Boeing responded that parts are available. Longeron extension fittings are a one piece forging and operators are not expected to fabricate these fittings. We have not changed this final rule in this regard.

Conclusion

We reviewed the relevant data, considered the comments received, and determined that air safety and the public interest require adopting this AD with the changes described previously—and minor editorial changes. We have determined that these minor changes:

- Are consistent with the intent that was proposed in the NPRM (78 FR 14731, March 7, 2013) for correcting the unsafe condition; and
- Do not add any additional burden upon the public than was already proposed in the NPRM (78 FR 14731, March 7, 2013).

We also determined that these changes will not increase the economic burden on any operator or increase the scope of this AD.

Costs of Compliance

We estimate that this AD affects 41 airplanes of U.S. registry. We estimate the following costs to comply with this AD:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Action</th>
<th>Labor cost</th>
<th>Parts cost</th>
<th>Cost per product</th>
<th>Cost on U.S. operators</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>High frequency eddy current inspection for cracking in longeron extension fittings.</td>
<td>32 work-hours × $85 per hour = $2,720, per inspection cycle.</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$2,720</td>
<td>$111,520, per inspection cycle.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Option to do preventative modification instead of repetitive inspections.</td>
<td>479 work-hours × $85 per hour = $40,715.</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>40,715</td>
<td>$1,669,315.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

We estimate the following costs to do any necessary replacements that would be required based on the results of the inspection. We have no way of determining the number of aircraft that might need this replacement:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Action</th>
<th>Labor cost</th>
<th>Parts cost</th>
<th>Cost per product</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Replacement</td>
<td>464 work-hours × $85 per hour = $39,440</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$39,440</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

We have received no definitive data that would enable us to provide cost estimates for the on-condition actions specified in this AD.

According to the manufacturer, some of the costs of this AD may be covered under warranty, thereby reducing the cost impact on affected individuals. We do not control warranty coverage for affected individuals. As a result, we have included all costs in our cost estimate.

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

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 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,
2. Is not a “significant rule” under 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.

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

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):


(a) Effective Date

This AD is effective August 26, 2013.

(b) Affected ADs

None.

(c) Applicability

This AD applies to The Boeing Company Model 747–400 and 747–400F series airplanes, certificated in any category, line numbers 1097 through 1419 inclusive.
SUMMARY: We are adopting a new airworthiness directive (AD) for all The Boeing Company Model 727 airplanes. This AD was prompted by reports of spanwise cracks and corrosion in the wing center box upper skin and rear spar upper chord between left buttock line (LBL) 70.50 and right buttock line (RBL) 70.50 at body station (STA) 870. This AD requires repetitive inspections of the wing center box for cracking around certain fastener rows on the rear spar upper chord horizontal flange; for certain airplanes, repetitive inspections for cracking of the rear spar upper chord radius; for certain other airplanes, repetitive inspections for damage, cracking, and corrosion of the pressure Code 53, Fuselage.

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
Federal Aviation Administration

14 CFR Part 39

AIRWORTHINESS DIRECTIVES; THE BOEING COMPANY AIRPLANES

AGENCY: Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), DOT.

ACTION: Final rule.

SUMMARY: We are adopting a new airworthiness directive (AD) for all The Boeing Company Model 727 airplanes. This AD was prompted by reports of spanwise cracks and corrosion in the wing center box upper skin and rear spar upper chord between left buttock line (LBL) 70.50 and right buttock line (RBL) 70.50 at body station (STA) 870. This AD requires repetitive inspections of the wing center box for cracking around certain fastener rows on the rear spar upper chord horizontal flange; for certain airplanes, repetitive inspections for cracking of the rear spar upper chord radius; for certain other airplanes, repetitive inspections for damage, cracking, and corrosion of the pressure