§ 734.101 Definitions.

Employee means any individual (other than the President, Vice President, or a member of the uniformed services) employed or holding office in—

(1) An Executive agency other than the General Accounting Office;
(2) A position within the competitive service which is not in an Executive agency; or
(3) The United States Postal Service or the Postal Rate Commission.

Employing office shall have the meaning given by the head of each agency or instrumentality of the United States Government covered by this part. Each agency or instrumentality shall provide notice identifying the appropriate employing offices within it through internal agency notice procedures.

On Duty means the time period when an employee is:

(1) In a pay status other than paid leave, compensatory time off, credit hours, time off as an incentive award, or excused or authorized absence (including leave without pay); or
(2) Representing any agency or instrumentality of the United States Government in an official capacity.

12. In § 734.102, paragraphs (a) and (b) are revised to read as follows:

§ 734.102 Jurisdiction.

(a) The United States Office of Special Counsel has exclusive authority to investigate allegations of political activity prohibited by the Hatch Act Reform Amendments of 1993, as implemented by 5 CFR part 734, prosecute alleged violations before the United States Merit Systems Protection Board, and render advisory opinions concerning the applicability of 5 CFR part 734 to the political activity of Federal employees. (5 U.S.C. 1212 and 1216). Advice concerning the Hatch Act Reform Amendments may be requested from the Office of Special Counsel:

(1) By letter addressed to the Office of Special Counsel at 1730 M Street NW., Suite 218, Washington, DC 20036–4505;
(2) By telephone on (202) 254–3450, or (1–800) 854–2824;
(3) By fax on (202) 254–3700; or
(4) By email at Hatchact@osc.gov.

(b) The Merit Systems Protection Board has exclusive authority to determine whether a violation of the Hatch Act Reform Amendments of 1993, as implemented by 5 CFR part 734, has occurred and to impose a penalty of removal, reduction-in-grade, debarment from Federal employment for a period not to exceed 5 years, suspension, reprimand, or an assessment of a civil penalty not to exceed $1,000, for violation of the political activity restrictions regulated by this part. (5 U.S.C. 1204 and 7326).

13. In § 734.203, paragraph (d) is revised to read as follows:

§ 734.203 Participation in nonpartisan activities.

(d) Participate fully in public affairs, except as prohibited by other Federal law, in a manner which does not compromise his or her efficiency or integrity as an employee or the neutrality, efficiency, or integrity of the agency or instrumentality of the United States Government in which he or she is employed.

14. In § 734.305, paragraph (c) is revised to read as follows:

§ 734.305 Soliciting or discouraging the political participation of certain persons.

(c) Each agency or instrumentality of the United States shall determine when a matter is pending and ongoing within employing offices of the agency or instrumentality for the purposes of this part.

15. In § 734.401, paragraph (a) is revised to read as follows:

§ 734.401 Coverage.

(a) This subpart applies to employees in the following agencies and positions:

(1) The Federal Election Commission;
(2) The Election Assistance Commission;
(3) The Federal Bureau of Investigation;
(4) The Secret Service;
(5) The Central Intelligence Agency;
(6) The National Security Council;
(7) The National Security Agency;
(8) The Defense Intelligence Agency;
(9) The Merit Systems Protection Board;
(10) The Office of Special Counsel;
(11) The Office of Criminal Investigation of the Internal Revenue Service;
(12) The Office of Investigative Programs of the United States Customs Service;
(13) The Office of Law Enforcement of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms;
(14) The Criminal Division of the Department of Justice;
(15) The National Security Division of the Department of Justice;
(16) The National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency;
(17) The Office of the Director of National Intelligence;
(18) Career Senior Executive Service positions described in 5 U.S.C. 3132(a)(4); (19) Administrative Law Judge positions described in 5 U.S.C. 5372;
(20) Contract Appeals Board Member positions described in 5 U.S.C. 5372a; or
(21) Administrative Appeals Judge positions described in 5 U.S.C. 5732b.

16. In § 734.502, paragraph (b) is revised to read as follows:

§ 734.502 Participation in political activity while on duty, in uniform, in any room or building occupied in the discharge of official duties, or using a Federal vehicle.

(b) For the purposes of this subpart, normal duty hours and normal duty post will be determined by the head of each agency or instrumentality of the United States.

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Aviation Administration

14 CFR Part 39


RIN 2120–AA64

Airworthiness Directives; BAE Systems (Operations) Limited Airplanes

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 BAE Systems (Operations) Limited Model BAe 146 series airplanes and Model Avro 146–RJ series airplanes. The existing AD currently requires revising the maintenance program by incorporating certain airworthiness limitations that require new life limits on certain main landing gear (MLG) components. Since we issued that AD, we have determined that reduced safe life limits on certain nose landing gear (NLG) fittings are necessary. Analysis of these fittings showed the presence of forging indications in the flash line, which might reduce the life limits of these fittings.

This proposed AD would require revising the maintenance program to
incorporate certain limitations. We are proposing this AD to prevent fatigue cracking of certain structural elements, which could adversely affect the structural integrity of the airplane.

DATES: We must receive comments on this proposed AD by September 9, 2013.

ADDRESSES: You may send comments by any of the following methods:
- 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 BAE Systems service information identified in this proposed AD, contact BAE Systems (Operations) Limited, Customer Information Department, Prestwick International Airport, Ayrshire, KA9 2RW, Scotland, United Kingdom; telephone +44 1292 675207; fax +44 1292 675704; email RApublications@baesystems.com; Internet http://www.baesystems.com/Businesses/RegionalAircraft/index.htm.

For Messier-Dowty service information identified in this proposed AD, contact Messier-Dowty: Messier Services Americas, Customer Support Center, 45360 Severn Way, Sterling, Virginia 20166–8910; telephone 703–450–8233; fax 703–404–1621; Internet https://techpubs.services/messier-dowty.com. 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–2013–0627; Directorate Identifier 2012–NM–021–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
On November 8, 2011, we issued AD 2011–24–06, Amendment 39–16870 (76 FR 73477, November 29, 2011), which superseded AD 2010–10–22, Amendment 39–16301 (75 FR 28463, May 21, 2010). AD 2011–24–06 required actions intended to address an unsafe condition on the products listed above. Since we issued AD 2011–24–06, Amendment 39–16870 (76 FR 73477, November 29, 2011), we have determined that reduced safe life limits on certain NLG fittings are necessary. Analysis of these findings showed the presence of forging indications in the flash line, which might reduce the life limits of these fittings. In addition, the aircraft maintenance manual has been revised to redefine the operating time of the aileron and elevator dampers. The European Aviation Safety Agency (EASA), which is the Technical Agent for the Member States of the European Community, has issued EASA Airworthiness Directive 2012–0004, dated January 12, 2012 (referred to after this as “the MCAI”), to correct an unsafe condition for the specified products.

The MCAI states:

* * * Compliance with [certain chapters of the BAE 146/AVRO 146–RJ Aircraft Maintenance Manual (AMM)] has been identified as a mandatory action for continued airworthiness and EASA AD 2011–0048 was issued to require operators to comply with those instructions.

Failure to comply with these instructions could result in an unsafe condition. For the reasons described above, this EASA AD retains the requirements of EASA AD 2011–0048 [which corresponds to FAA AD 2011–24–06, Amendment 39–16870 (76 FR 73477, November 29, 2011)], which is superseded, and requires the implementation of the new or more restrictive maintenance requirements and/or airworthiness limitations as specified in * * * [certain] sub-chapters of Chapter 05 of the AMM at Revision 105 * * *.

The unsafe condition is fatigue cracking of certain structural elements, which could adversely affect the structural integrity of the airplane. You may obtain further information by examining the MCAI in the AD docket.

Relevant Service Information
BAE Systems (Operations) Limited has issued the following service information. 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 another country, and is approved for operation in the United States. Pursuant to our bilateral agreement with the State of Design Authority, we have been notified of the unsafe condition described in the MCAI and service information referenced above. We are proposing this AD because we evaluated all pertinent information and determined an unsafe condition exists and is likely to exist or develop on other products of the same type design.

This AD requires revisions to certain operator maintenance documents to include new actions (e.g., inspections) and/or Critical Design Configuration
Control Limitations (CDCCLs). Compliance with these actions and/or CDCCLs is required by 14 CFR 91.403(c). For airplanes that have been previously modified, altered, or repaired in the areas addressed by this AD, the operator may not be able to accomplish the actions described in the revisions. In this situation to comply with 14 CFR 91.403(c), the operator must request approval of an alternative method of compliance (AMOC) according to paragraph (n) of this AD. The request should include a description of changes to the required actions that will ensure the continued operational safety of the airplane.

Costs of Compliance
Based on the service information, we estimate that this proposed AD would affect about 2 products of U.S. registry. The actions that are required by AD 2011–24–06, Amendment 39–16870 (76 FR 73477, November 29, 2011), and retained in this proposed AD take about 2 work-hours per product, at an average labor rate of $85 per work hour. Required parts cost about $0 per product. Based on these figures, the estimated cost of the currently required actions is $170 per product.

We estimate that it would take about 1 work-hour per product to comply with the new basic requirements of this proposed AD. The average labor rate is $85 per work-hour. Based on these figures, we estimate the cost of the proposed AD on U.S. operators to be up to $170, or $85 per product.

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 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);
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 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

§ 39.13 [Amended]
1. The FAA amends § 39.13 by removing airworthiness directive (AD) 2011–24–06, Amendment 39–16870 (76 FR 73477, November 29, 2011), and adding the following new AD:


(a) Comments Due Date
We must receive comments by September 9, 2013.

(b) Affected ADs
This AD supersedes AD 2011–24–06, Amendment 39–16870 (76 FR 73477, November 29, 2011).

(c) Applicability
This AD applies to all BAE Systems (Operations) Limited Model BAe146–100A, –200A, and –300A airplanes; and Model Avro 146–RJ70A, 146–RJ85A, and 146–RJ100A airplanes; certified in any category.

(d) Subject
Air Transport Association (ATA) of America Code 05.

(e) Reason
This AD was prompted by a determination that reduced safe life limits on certain NGT fittings are necessary. We are issuing this AD to prevent fatigue cracking of certain structural elements, which could adversely affect the structural integrity of the airplane.

(f) Compliance
You are responsible for having the actions required by this AD performed within the compliance times specified, unless the actions have already been done.

(g) Retained Airworthiness Limitations
Revisions
1. This paragraph restates the requirements of paragraph (g) of AD 2011–24–06, Amendment 39–16870 (76 FR 73477, November 29, 2011). Within 90 days after 24–06, Amendment 39–16301 (75 FR 28463, June 25, 2010), the effective date of AD 2010–10–22, Amendment 39–16301 (75 FR 28463, May 21, 2010), revise the maintenance program, by incorporating Chapter 5 of the BAE Systems (Operations) Limited BAe146 Series/Avro 146–RJ Series Aircraft Maintenance Manual (AMM) to incorporate new and more restrictive life limits for certain items and new and more restrictive inspections to detect fatigue cracking in certain structures, and to add fuel system (CDCCLs to prevent ignition sources in the fuel tanks, in accordance with a method approved by the Manager, International Branch, ANN–116, Transport Airplane Directorate, FAA, or the European Aviation Safety Agency (EASA) (or its delegated agent).

2. This paragraph restates the provisions of Note 2 of AD 2011–24–06, Amendment 39–16870 (76 FR 73477, November 29, 2011). Guidance on revising Chapter 5 of the BAE Systems (Operations) Limited BAe146 Series/Avro 146–RJ Series Aircraft AMM, Revision 97, dated July 15, 2009, can be found in the applicable sub-chapters listed in Table 1 to paragraph (g)(2) of this AD.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>AMM Sub-chapter</th>
<th>Subject</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>05–10–01</td>
<td>Airframe Airworthiness Limitations before Life Extension Programme.</td>
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<tr>
<td>05–10–05</td>
<td>Airframe Airworthiness Limitations, Life Extension Programme Landings Life Extended.</td>
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TABLE 1 TO PARAGRAPH (G)(2) OF THIS AD—APPLICABLE AMM SUB-CHAPTERS—Continued

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<th>AMM Sub-chapter</th>
<th>Subject</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>05–10–10 2</td>
<td>Airframe Airworthiness Limitations, Life Extension Programme Calendar Life Extended.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>05–10–15</td>
<td>Aircraft Equipment—Airworthiness Limitations.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>05–10–17</td>
<td>Power Plant Airworthiness Limitations.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>05–15–00</td>
<td>Critical Design Configuration Control Limitations (CDCCL)—Fuel System Description and Operation.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>05–20–01</td>
<td>Airframe Scheduled Maintenance—Before Life Extension Programme.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>05–20–01 5</td>
<td>Airframe Scheduled Maintenance—Life Extension Programme Landings Life Extended.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>05–20–10 2</td>
<td>Airframe Scheduled Maintenance—Life Extension Programme Calendar Life Extended.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>05–20–10 5</td>
<td>Aircraft Equipment Scheduled Maintenance.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1 Applicable only to airplanes post-modification HCM20011A or HCM20012A or HCM20013A.
2 Applicable only to airplanes post-modification HCM20010A.
3 Paragraphs 5 and 6 only, on the Corrosion Prevention and Control Program (CPCP) and the Supplemental Structural Inspection Document (SSID).

(3) This paragraph restates the provisions of Note 3 of AD 2011–24–06, Amendment 39–16870 (76 FR 73477, November 29, 2011). Except as specified in paragraphs (i) and (j) of this AD and required by paragraph (k) of this AD: After the actions specified in paragraph (g) of this AD have been accomplished, no alternative inspections or inspection intervals may be approved for the structural elements specified in the documents listed in paragraph 90 of this AD unless the actions, intervals, and/or CDCCLs are approved as an alternative method of compliance (AMOC) in accordance with the procedures specified in paragraph (n) of this AD.

(i) Retained Modification

This paragraph restates the provisions of paragraph (i) of AD 2011–24–06, Amendment 39–16870 (76 FR 73477, November 29, 2011). Modifying the main fittings of the main landing gear in accordance with Messier-Dowty Service Bulletin 146–52–171, dated August 11, 2009, extends the safe limit of the main landing gear main fitting from 32,000 landings to 50,000 landings on the main fitting.

(j) Retained Airworthiness Limitations

Revisions

This paragraph restates the requirements of paragraph (j) of AD 2011–24–06, Amendment 39–16870 (76 FR 73477, November 29, 2011). Except as required by paragraph (i) of this AD, after accomplishing the revision required by paragraph (j) of this AD, no alternative actions (e.g., inspections), intervals, and/or CDCCLs may be used, unless the actions, intervals, and/or CDCCLs are approved as an alternative method of compliance (AMOC) in accordance with the procedures specified in paragraph (n) of this AD.

(k) Retained Restriction of Alternative Actions, Intervals, and/or CDCCLs

This paragraph restates the requirements of paragraph (k) of AD 2011–24–06, Amendment 39–16870 (76 FR 73477, November 29, 2011). Except as required by paragraph (i) of this AD, after accomplishing the revision required by paragraph (j) of this AD, no alternative actions (e.g., inspections), intervals, and/or CDCCLs may be used, unless the actions, intervals, and/or CDCCLs are approved as an alternative method of compliance (AMOC) in accordance with the procedures specified in paragraph (n) of this AD.

(l) New Airworthiness Limitation Revision

Within 90 days after the effective date of this AD, revise the maintenance program, by incorporating Chapter 05, “Time Limits/Maintenance Checks,” of the BAE Systems (Operations) Limited BAE 146 Series/Avro 146–RJ Series AMM, Revision 105, dated July 15, 2011, into the maintenance program. The initial compliance time for the replacement of any part having a new or revised life limit is at the applicable time specified in Chapter 05, “Time Limits/Maintenance Checks,” of the BAE Systems (Operations) Limited BAE 146 Series/Avro 146–RJ Series AMM, Revision 105, dated July 15, 2011, or within 90 days after the effective date of this AD, whichever occurs later.


(2) Within Sub-chapter 05–20–01 of the BAE Systems (Operations) Limited BAE146 Series/Avro146–RJ Series AMM, the supporting document is BAE Systems (Operations) Limited Maintenance Review

(m) No Alternative Actions, Intervals, and/or CDCCLs

After accomplishing the revision required by paragraph (l) of this AD, no alternative actions (e.g., inspections), intervals, and/or CDCCLs may be used, unless the actions, intervals, and/or CDCCLs are approved as an AMOC in accordance with the procedures specified in paragraph (n) of this AD.

(n) Other FAA AD Provisions

The following provisions also apply to this AD:

(1) Alternative Methods of Compliance (AMOCs): The Manager, International Branch, 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 International Branch, send it to ATTN: Todd Thompson, Aerospace Engineer, International Branch, ANM–116, Transport Airplane Directorate, FAA, 1601 Lind Avenue SW., Renton, WA 98057–3356; telephone 425–227–1175; fax 425–227–1149. Information may be emailed to: n-AMN-116-AMOC-REQUESTS@faa.gov. 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.

(o) Related Information


(2) For BAE Systems service information identified in this AD, contact BAE Systems (Operations) Limited, Customer Information Department, Prestwick International Airport, Ayrshire, KA9 2RW, Scotland, United Kingdom; telephone +44 1292 675207; fax +44 1292 675704; email RApubblications@baesystems.com; Internet http://www.baesystems.com/Busineses/RegionalAircraft/index.htm. For Messier-Dowty service information identified in this proposed AD, contact Messier-Dowty: Messier Servies Americas, Customer Support Center, 45360 Severn Way, Sterling, Virginia 20166–8910; telephone 703–450–8233; fax 703–404–1621; Internet https://techpubs.services/messier-dowty.com. 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.

Issued in Renton, Washington, on July 12, 2013.

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

[FR Doc. 2013–17764 Filed 7–23–13; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910–13–P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
Federal Aviation Administration

14 CFR Part 39


RIN 2120–AA64

Airworthiness Directives; Dassault Aviation Airplanes

AGENCY: Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), DOT.

ACTION: Notice of proposed rulemaking (NPRM).

SUMMARY: We propose to adopt a new airworthiness directive (AD) for all DASSAULT AVIATION Model FAN JET FALCON; Model MYSTERE–FALCON 200 airplanes; and Model MYSTERE–FALCON 20–C5, 20–D5, 20–E5, and 20–F5 airplanes. This proposed AD was prompted by reports of defective fire extinguisher bottle cartridges. This proposed AD would require checking and/or replacing defective fire extinguisher bottle cartridges. We are proposing this AD to detect and correct defective fire bottle cartridges, which could affect the capability to extinguish a fire in an airplane, auxiliary power unit, or rear compartment, which could result in damage to the airplane and injury to the occupants.

DATES: We must receive comments on this proposed AD by September 9, 2013.

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.

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.


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–2013–0626; Directorate Identifier 2012–NM–180–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 European Aviation Safety Agency (EASA), which is the aviation authority for the Member States of the European Community, has issued EASA...