Within 36 months after the effective date of this AD, replace all H–11 steel barrel nuts with new Inconel barrel nuts.

If no H–11 steel barrel nut is found at all attachment point locations, no further work is required by this paragraph.

Exception to Service Information Specifications
Where Boeing Alert Service Bulletin 767–53A0261, dated August 12, 2014, specifies a compliance time “after the Original Issue date of this Service Bulletin,” this AD requires compliance within the specified compliance time after the effective date of this AD.

Parts Installation Prohibition
As of the effective date of this AD, no person may install an H–11 steel barrel nut on the vertical stabilizer of any airplane.

Alternative Methods of Compliance (AMOCs)

The Manager, Seattle Aircraft Certification Office (ACO), 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 manager of the ACO, send it to the attention of the person identified in paragraph (k)(1) of this AD. Information may be emailed to: 9-ANM-Seattle-ACO-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.

An AMOC that provides an acceptable level of safety may be used for any repair required by this AD if it is approved by the Boeing Commercial Airplanes Organization Designation Authorization (ODA) that has been authorized by the Manager, Seattle ACO, to make those findings. For a repair method to be approved, the repair method must meet the certification basis of the airplane, and the approval must specifically refer to this AD.

If any service information contains steps that are identified as RC, those steps must be done to comply with this AD; any steps that are not identified as RC are recommended. Those steps that are not identified as RC may be deviated from using accepted methods in accordance with the operator’s maintenance or inspection program without obtaining approval of an AMOC, provided the steps identified as RC can be done and the airplane can be put back in a serviceable condition. Any substitutions or changes to steps identified as RC require approval of an AMOC.

Related Information

For more information about this AD, contact Berhane Alazar, Aerospace Engineer, Airframe Branch, ANM–120S, FAA, Seattle Aircraft Certification Office (ACO), 1601 Lind Avenue SW., Renton, WA 98057–3356; phone: 425–917–6577; fax: 425–917–6590; email: berhane.alazar@faa.gov.

For service information identified in this AD, contact Boeing Commercial Airplanes, Attention: Data & Services Management, P.O. Box 3707, MC 2H–65, Seattle, WA 98124–2207; telephone 206–544–5000, extension 1; fax 206–766–5680; Internet https://www.myboeingfleet.com. You may view this 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 March 24, 2015.

Michael Kaszycki, Acting Manager, Transport Airplane Directorate, Aircraft Certification Service.

[Docket No. FAA–2015–0881]

Interpretation of the Flight Time Limitations

AGENCY: Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), DOT.

ACTION: Notice of Proposed Interpretation.

SUMMARY: This action proposes to interpret our regulations to not apply to flight segments that are flown by a flightcrew consisting of only two pilots and no other flight crewmembers.

DATES: Comments must be received on or before May 11, 2015.

ADDRESSES: You may send comments identified by docket number FAA–2015–0881 using any of the following methods:

• Federal eRulemaking Portal: Go to http://www.regulations.gov and follow the online instructions for sending your comments electronically.

• Mail: Send Comments to Docket Operations, M–30; US Department of Transportation, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE., West Building Ground Floor, Room W12–140, West Building Ground Floor, Washington, DC 20590–0001.

• Hand Delivery: Take comments to Docket Operations in Room W12–140 of the West Building Ground Floor at 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE., Washington, DC, between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays.

• Fax: (202) 493–2251.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Alex Zektsr, Attorney, Regulations Division, Office of Chief Counsel, Federal Aviation Administration, 800 Independence Avenue SW., Washington, DC 20591; telephone: (202) 267–8018; email: Alex.Zektsr@faa.gov.

The FAA invites interested persons to submit written comments, data, or views concerning this proposal. The most helpful comments reference a specific portion of this proposal, explain the reason for any recommended change, and include supporting data. To ensure the docket does not contain duplicate comments, please send only one copy of written comments, or if you are filing comments electronically, please submit your comments only one time.

The FAA will file in the docket all comments received, as well as a report summarizing each substantive public contact with FAA personnel concerning this proposal. Before acting on this proposal, the FAA will consider all comments received on or before the closing date for comments and any late-filed comments if it is possible to do so without incurring expense or delay. The FAA may change this proposal in light of comments received.

Availability of This Proposed Interpretation

You can get an electronic copy using the Internet by—

(1) Searching the Federal eRulemaking Portal (http://www.regulations.gov);

(2) Visiting the FAA’s Regulations and Policies Web page at http://www.faa.gov/regulations_policies/; or


You can also get a copy by sending a request to the Federal Aviation Administration, Office of Rulemaking, ARM–1, 800 Independence Avenue SW., Washington, DC 20591, or by calling (202) 267–9680. Make sure to identify the docket number or notice number of this proposal.

Background

The FAA has been asked to provide two legal interpretations regarding the application of 14 CFR 121.521. Specifically, both interpretation requests present scenarios involving supplemental all-cargo part 121 operations that contain at least one international segment and make an election, under 14 CFR 121.513, to operate under the flight time limitations of § 121.515 and §§ 121.521 through 121.525.

Both scenarios involve, in part, at least one segment in which the aircraft would be flown by a flightcrew consisting solely of two pilots and no other flight crewmembers. Both scenarios involve, in part, at least one segment in which the aircraft would be flown by a flightcrew consisting solely of two pilots and no other flight crewmembers. Both
interpretation requests then ask the FAA to determine which specific flight, duty, and rest regulations would apply to these scenarios. Accordingly, the FAA must determine whether 14 CFR 121.521 applies to a flightcrew consisting solely of two pilots. For the reasons discussed below, the FAA proposes to find that §121.521 does not apply to any flight segment that is flown by a flightcrew consisting only of two pilots and no other flight crewmembers.

Discussion of the Proposal

 Normally, air carriers conducting all-cargo supplemental operations under part 121 must operate pursuant to the flight, duty, and rest provisions of §§121.503 through 121.509. However, supplemental air carriers conducting overseas and international all-cargo operations may elect, pursuant to §121.513, to comply with the flight time limitations of §121.515 and §§121.521 through 121.525 (commonly referred to as the “international rules”).1

Section 121.521 governs the smallest-size flightcrew that can operate under these international rules. The regulatory text of §121.521 unambiguously states that this section applies only to a “crew of two pilots and at least one additional flight crewmember.”2 Thus, the plain text of §121.521 states that there must be at least three flight crewmembers in order for §121.521 to apply: (1) two pilots; and (2) at least one additional flight crewmember. The FAA reaffirmed this plain-text reading of §121.521 in a 2012 interpretation in which it found that a flightcrew consisting of three pilots would be subject to the provisions of §121.521.3

Because §121.521 governs the smallest-size flightcrew that can operate under the international part 121 flight, duty, and rest rules for supplemental all-cargo operations and because §121.521 only applies to a flightcrew that has at least three flight crewmembers, the FAA proposes to find that §121.521 does not apply to a flightcrew of only two pilots and no other flight crewmembers. Under the proposed interpretation and consistent with the FAA’s precedent, a flightcrew of only two pilots in a supplemental part 121 all-cargo operation would be subject to the provisions of §121.503 and §121.505, which, among other things, apply to a flightcrew consisting solely of two pilots.

1 14 CFR 121.513.
2 14 CFR 121.521(a) (emphasis added).
3 Letter to Timothy Slater from Rebecca MacPherson, Assistant Chief Counsel for Regulations (Sept. 7, 2012) (answer to Question 1).