The FAA issued AD 2016–14–01, Amendment 39–18582 (81 FR 44983, July 12, 2016); corrected (81 FR 51097, August 3, 2016) (“AD 2016–14–01”). AD 2016–14–01 applies to certain Airbus SAS Model A330–200 Freighter series airplanes; Model A330–200 and A330–300 series airplanes; Model A340–200 and A340–300 series airplanes; and Model A340–600 series airplanes. AD 2016–14–01 requires identification of the manufacturer, part number, and serial number of the RAT, and re-identification and modification of the RAT if necessary. AD 2016–14–01 was prompted by a report indicating that, during an operational test of a RAT, the RAT did not deploy in automatic mode. AD 2016–14–01 was issued to prevent non-deployment of the RAT, which, following a total engine flame-out, or during a total loss of normal electrical power generation, could result in reduced control of the airplane.

Related Service Information Under 1 CFR Part 51

Airbus SAS has issued Service Bulletins A330–29–3140 and A340–29–4098, both dated May 3, 2017. This service information identifies the procedures for replacing any affected RAT hydraulic pump with a serviceable
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.

This proposed AD is issued in accordance with authority delegated by the Executive Director, Aircraft Certification Service, as authorized by FAA Order 8000.51C. In accordance with that order, issuance of ADs is a normal function of the Compliance and Airworthiness Division, but during this transition period, the Executive Director has delegated the authority to issue ADs applicable to transport category airplanes to the Director of the System Oversight Division.

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, or 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 (49 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.

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]

The FAA amends § 39.13 by adding the following new airworthiness directive (AD):

(g) Definitions for This AD

(1) An affected part is a RAT hydraulic pump having part number (P/N) 5916438 and a serial number identified in UTC Aerospace Systems Service Bulletin ERPS06M–29–22, dated March 17, 2017, or Revision 1, dated June 27, 2017.

(2) A serviceable part is a RAT hydraulic pump identified as acceptable in Airbus Service Bulletin A330–29–3130 or A340–29–4098, both dated May 3, 2017, as applicable.

(3) Group 1 airplanes are airplanes on which an affected part is installed.

(4) Group 2 airplanes are airplanes on which no affected part is installed. A Model A330 airplane on which Airbus SAS Modification 206604 has been embodied in production is a Group 2 airplane, provided that the airplane remains in that configuration.

(h) Replacement and Re-identification for Group 1 Airplanes

(1) Within 18 months after the effective date of this AD; replace any affected RAT hydraulic pump with a serviceable part, in accordance with the Accomplishment Instructions of Airbus Service Bulletin A330–29–3130 or A340–29–4098, both dated May 3, 2017, as applicable.

(2) Concurrently with the replacement required by paragraph (h)(1) of this AD, re-identify the part number of the serviceable RAT module, in accordance with the Accomplishment Instructions of Airbus Service Bulletin A330–29–3130 or A340–29–4098, both dated May 3, 2017, as applicable.

Note 1 to paragraph (h)(2) of this AD: Airbus Service Bulletins A330–29–3130 and A340–29–4098, both dated May 3, 2017, provide guidance for re-identification of the part numbers of the RAT hydraulic pumps that are not affected, and the part numbers of the RAT modules that are not equipped with an affected hydraulic pump.

(i) Compliance With AD 2016–14–01

After re-identification of a RAT module on an airplane, as required by paragraph (h)(2) of this AD, the airplane remains compliant with the RAT module re-identification requirements of AD 2016–14–01 for that airplane.

(j) Parts Installation Prohibition

(1) For Group 1 airplanes: After replacement of any affected RAT hydraulic pump as required by paragraph (h)(1) of this AD, do not install any affected RAT hydraulic pump.

(2) For Group 2 airplanes: As of the effective date of this AD, do not install any affected RAT hydraulic pump.

(k) Other FAA AD Provisions

The following provisions also apply to this AD:

(1) Alternative Methods of Compliance (AMOCs): The Manager, International Section, Transport Standards 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 the attention of the person identified in paragraph (l)(2) of this AD. Information may be emailed to: 9-ANM-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.

(2) Contacting the Manufacturer: For any requirement in this AD to obtain corrective actions from a manufacturer, the action must be accomplished using a method approved by the Manager, International Section, Transport Standards Branch, FAA; or the European Aviation Safety Agency (EASA); or Airbus SAS’s EASA DOA. If approved by the DOA, the approval must include the DOA-authorized signature.

(l) Related Information

(1) Refer to Mandatory Continuing Airworthiness Information (MCAI) EASA AD 2016–0062, dated March 20, 2018, for related information. This MCAI may be found in the AD docket on the internet at http://www.regulations.gov by searching for and locating Docket No. FAA–2018–0764.

(2) For more information about this AD, contact Vladimir Ulyanov, Aerospace Engineer, International Section, Transport Standards Branch, FAA, 2200 South 216th St., Des Moines, WA 98198; telephone and fax: 206–231–3229.

(3) For service information identified in this AD, contact Airbus SAS, Airworthiness Office—ELAS, Rond-Point Emile Dewoitine No: 2, 31700 Blagnac Cedex, France; telephone +33 5 61 93 36 96; fax +33 5 61 93 44 51; email account.airworth-eas@airbus.com; internet http://www.airbus.com. You may view this service information at the FAA, Transport Standards Branch, 2200 South 216th St., Des Moines, WA. For information on the availability of this material at the FAA, call 206–231–3195.

Issued in Des Moines, Washington, on August 16, 2018.

Michael Kaszycki,
Acting Director, System Oversight Division, Aircraft Certification Service.

[FR Doc. 2018–18811 Filed 8–30–18; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 4910–13–P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Aviation Administration

14 CFR Part 39


RIN 2120–AA64

Airworthiness Directives; Airbus SAS Airplanes

AGENCY: Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), DOT.

ACTION: Notice of proposed rulemaking (NPRM).

SUMMARY: We propose to supersede Airworthiness Directive (AD) 2016–07–23, which applies to all Airbus SAS Model A318, A319, A320, and A321 series airplanes. AD 2016–07–23 requires, for certain airplanes, repetitive replacements of the fixed fairing upper and lower attachment studs of both the left-hand (LH) and right-hand (RH) main landing gear (MLG); and repetitive inspections for corrosion, wear, fatigue cracking, and loose studs of each forward strut assembly of the fixed fairing door upper and lower forward attachments of both the LH and RH MLG; and replacement if necessary. AD 2016–07–23 also provides an optional terminating modification for the repetitive replacements of the fixed fairing upper and lower attachment studs. Since we issued AD 2016–07–23, we have determined that for some airplane configurations, associated fixed fairing assembly part numbers susceptible to fatigue cracking were not listed in certain service information required by AD 2016–07–23. In addition, we have determined that additional work is necessary to re-identify the fixed fairing assembly part number on certain airplanes. This proposed AD would retain the requirements of AD 2016–07–23 and, for certain airplanes, require re-identification of the LH and RH fixed fairing assemblies’ part numbers. We are proposing this AD to address the unsafe condition on these products.

DATES: We must receive comments on this proposed AD by October 15, 2018.

ADDRESSES: You may send comments, using the procedures found in 14 CFR 11.43 and 11.45, 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: Deliver to Mail address above between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays.

For service information identified in this NPRM, contact Airbus SAS, Airworthiness Office—ELAS, Rond-Point Emile Dewoitine No: 2, 31700 Blagnac Cedex, France; telephone +33 5 61 93 36 96; fax +33 5 61 93 44 51; email account.airworth-eas@airbus.com; internet http://www.airbus.com. You may view this service information at the FAA, Transport Standards Branch, 2200 South 216th St., Des Moines, WA. For information on the availability of this material at the FAA, call 206–231–3195.

Issued in Des Moines, Washington, on August 16, 2018.