

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Aviation Administration

14 CFR Part 39


RIN 2120–AA64

Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes

AGENCY: Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), DOT.

ACTION: Final rule; request for comments.

SUMMARY: The FAA is adopting a new airworthiness directive (AD) for all The Boeing Company Model 737–8, 737–9, and 737–8200 (737 MAX) airplanes; and certain Model 737–800 and 737–900ER series airplanes. This AD was prompted by the determination that the aft cargo compartment fire suppression capability is reduced if the airplane is dispatched or released with failed electronic flow control of air conditioning packs, as is currently allowed by these airplane models’ master minimum equipment lists (MMEls). This AD prohibits the carriage of cargo in the aft cargo compartment when the airplane is dispatched or released with failed electronic flow control of air conditioning packs. The FAA is issuing this AD to address the unsafe condition on these products.

DATES: This AD is effective August 9, 2021.

The FAA must receive comments on this AD by September 23, 2021.

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 https://www.regulations.gov. Follow the instructions for submitting comments.
- Hand Delivery: Deliver to Mail Operations between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays.
- Federal holidays.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Sam Nalbandian, Aerospace Engineer, Cabin Safety and Environmental Systems Section, FAA, Seattle ACO Branch, 2200 South 216th St., Des Moines, WA 98198; phone and fax: 206–231–3993; email: Samuel.K.Nalbandian@faa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

The FAA was notified by Boeing in March 2021 of a potential concern that the aft cargo compartment fire suppression capability is reduced on affected airplanes if the airplane is dispatched or released with failed electronic flow control of air conditioning packs, as is currently allowed by the existing FAA-approved MMEL of the affected airplane models. This MMEL allowance can result in the inability to contain a fire in the aft cargo compartment due to increased air leakage that degrades the fire suppression performance. A failed electronic flow control of air conditioning packs would significantly increase the pack airflow and cargo compartment air leakage. In April 2021, Boeing advised the FAA that such increased leakage could result in insufficient concentration of Halon fire suppressant in the aft cargo compartment, which can result in the inability to contain a fire for the time necessary to divert to a suitable airport.

The FAA is issuing this AD to address failed electronic flow control of air conditioning packs, which can result in an uncontained aft cargo compartment fire due to insufficient cargo fire suppression capability. The FAA is issuing this AD to address the unsafe condition on these products.

FAA’s Determination

The FAA is issuing this AD because the agency has determined the unsafe condition described previously is likely to exist or develop in other products of the same type design.

AD Requirements

This AD prohibits dispatch or release of an airplane with cargo in the aft cargo compartment with failed electronic flow control of air conditioning packs. The AD specifically allows non-combustible and/or non-flammable empty cargo handling equipment, ballast, and/or fly-away kits in the aft cargo compartment.

MMEL Revisions

This AD refers to items in ATA System No. 21, Air Conditioning, of Boeing 737 (B–737–100/200/300/400/500/600/700/800/900/900ER) MMEL, Revision 61, dated July 8, 2020; and Boeing 737 MAX (B–737–8/–9200) MMEL, Revision 3, dated April 12, 2021; those items may also be included in an operator’s FAA-approved minimum equipment list (MEL). This AD prohibits dispatch or release of the airplane under conditions currently allowed by those items in the MMEL. The FAA plans to revise the MMELs to modify those items; operators would then be required to also revise their applicable existing FAA-approved MEL accordingly.

Justification for Immediate Adoption and Determination of the Effective Date

Section 553(b)(3)(B) of the Administrative Procedure Act (APA) (5 U.S.C. 551 et seq.) authorizes agencies to dispense with notice and comment procedures for rules when the agency, for “good cause,” finds that those procedures are “impracticable, unnecessary, or contrary to the public interest.” Under this section, an agency, upon finding good cause, may issue a
final rule without providing notice and seeking comment prior to issuance. Further, section 553(d) of the APA authorizes agencies to make rules effective in less than thirty days, upon a finding of good cause.

An unsafe condition exists that requires the immediate adoption of this AD without providing an opportunity for public comments prior to adoption. The FAA has found that the risk to the flying public justifies forgoing notice and comment prior to adoption of this rule because failed electronic flow control of air conditioning packs can result in an uncontained aft cargo compartment fire due to insufficient cargo fire suppression capability. Accordingly, notice and opportunity for prior public comment are impracticable and contrary to the public interest pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 553(b)(3)(B).

In addition, the FAA finds that good cause exists pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 553(d) for making this amendment effective in less than 30 days, for the same reasons the FAA found good cause to forgo notice and comment.

Comments Invited

The FAA invites you to send any written data, views, or arguments about this final rule. Send your comments to an address listed under ADDRESSES. Include Docket No. FAA–2021–0614 and Project Identifier AD–2021–00831–T at the beginning of your comments. The most helpful comments reference a specific portion of the final rule, explain the reason for any recommended change, and include supporting data. The FAA will consider all comments received by the closing date and may amend this final rule because of those comments.

Except for Confidential Business Information (CBI) as described in the following paragraph, and other information as described in 14 CFR 11.35, the FAA will post all comments received, without change, to https://www.regulations.gov, including any personal information you provide. The agency will also post a report summarizing each substantive verbal contact received about this final rule.

Confidential Business Information

CBI is commercial or financial information that is both customarily and actually treated as private by its owner. Under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) (5 U.S.C. 552), CBI is exempt from public disclosure. If your comments responsive to this AD contain commercial or financial information that is customarily treated as private, that you actually treat as private, and that is relevant or responsive to this AD, it is important that you clearly designate the submitted comments as CBI. Please mark each page of your submission containing CBI as “PROPIN.” The FAA will treat such marked submissions as confidential under the FOIA, and they will not be placed in the public docket of this AD. Submissions containing CBI should be sent to Sam Nalbandian, Aerospace Engineer, Cabin Safety and Environmental Systems Section, FAA, Seattle ACO Branch, 2200 South 216th St., Des Moines, WA 98198; phone and fax: 206–231–3993; email: Samuel.K.Nalbandian@faa.gov. Any commentary that the FAA receives that is not specifically designated as CBI will be placed in the public docket for this rulemaking.

Regulatory Flexibility Act

The requirements of the Regulatory Flexibility Act (RFA) do not apply when an agency finds good cause pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 553 to adopt a rule without prior notice and comment. Because the FAA has determined that it has good cause to adopt this rule without notice and comment, RFA analysis is not required.

Costs of Compliance

The FAA estimates that this AD affects 663 airplanes of U.S. registry. The FAA has determined that revising the operator’s existing FAA-approved MEL, if accomplished in association with compliance for the requirements of this AD, would take an average of 90 work-hours per operator, although the agency recognizes that this number may vary from operator to operator. Since operators typically incorporate MEL changes for their affected fleets, the FAA has determined that a per-operator estimate is more accurate than a per-airplane estimate. Therefore, the FAA estimates the average total cost per operator to be $7,650 (90 work-hours × $85 per work-hour).

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.

The FAA is 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 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:

(a) Is not a “significant regulatory action” under Executive Order 12866, and

(b) Will not affect intrastate aviation in Alaska.

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]

(a) Effective Date

This airworthiness directive (AD) is effective August 9, 2021.

(b) Affected ADs

None.

(c) Applicability

This AD applies to The Boeing Company airplanes, certified in any category, as identified in paragraphs (c)(1) through (5) of this AD.

(1) All Model 737–8, 737–9, and 737–8200 airplanes.

(2) Model 737–800 series airplanes, line numbers 5684 and 5759 and subsequent.

(3) Model 737–900ER series airplanes, line numbers 5768 and subsequent.
SUMMARY: The FAA is adopting a new airworthiness directive (AD) for certain Bell Textron Inc. (type certificate previously held by Bell Helicopter Textron Inc.) helicopters. The new AD requires removing the pins from service before further flight and prohibits installing them on any helicopter. The FAA previously sent an emergency AD to all known U.S. owners and operators of these helicopters and is now issuing this AD to address the unsafe condition on these products.

DATES: This AD is effective August 24, 2021. Emergency AD 2021–15–51, issued on July 6, 2021, which contained the requirements of this amendment, was effective with actual notice.

The FAA must receive comments on this AD by September 23, 2021.

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 https://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 final rule, contact Bell Textron, Inc., P.O. Box 482, Fort Worth, TX 76101; telephone (450) 437–2862 or (800) 363–8023; fax (450) 433–0272; email productsupport@bellflight.com; or at https://www.bellflight.com/support/contact-support. You may view this service information at the FAA, Office of the Regional Counsel, Southwest Region, 10101 Hillwood Pkwy., Room 6N–321, Fort Worth, TX 76177. For information on the availability of this material at the FAA, call (817) 222–5110.

Examining the AD Docket
You may examine the AD docket at https://www.regulations.gov by searching for and locating Docket No. FAA 2021–0619; or in person at Docket Operations between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays. The AD docket contains this final rule, any comments received, and other information. The street address for Docket Operations is listed above.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: David Wilson, Aerospace Engineer, DSCO Branch, Compliance & Airworthiness Division, FAA, 10101 Hillwood Pkwy., Fort Worth, TX 76177; telephone (817) 222–5786; email david.wilson@faa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
Federal Aviation Administration

14 CFR Part 39


RIN 2120–AA64

Airworthiness Directives; Bell Textron Inc. (Type Certificate Previously Held by Bell Helicopter Textron Inc.) Helicopters

AGENCY: Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), DOT.

ACTION: Final rule; request for comments.

SUMMARY: The FAA is adopting a new airworthiness directive (AD) for certain Bell Textron Inc. (type certificate previously held by Bell Helicopter Textron Inc.) Model 204B, 205A, 205A–1, 205B, and 212 helicopters. This AD was prompted by a fatal accident in which an outboard main rotor hub strap pin (pin) sheared off during flight resulting in the main rotor blade and the main rotor head detaching from the helicopter. This AD requires removing the pins from service before further flight and prohibits installing them on any helicopter. The FAA previously sent an emergency AD to all known U.S. owners and operators of these helicopters and is now issuing this AD to address the unsafe condition on these products.

DATES: This AD is effective August 24, 2021. Emergency AD 2021–15–51, issued on July 6, 2021, which contained the requirements of this amendment, was effective with actual notice.

The FAA must receive comments on this AD by September 23, 2021.

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 https://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 final rule, contact Bell Textron, Inc., P.O. Box 482, Fort Worth, TX 76101; telephone (450) 437–2862 or (800) 363–8023; fax (450) 433–0272; email productsupport@bellflight.com; or at https://www.bellflight.com/support/contact-support. You may view this service information at the FAA, Office of the Regional Counsel, Southwest Region, 10101 Hillwood Pkwy., Room 6N–321, Fort Worth, TX 76177. For information on the availability of this material at the FAA, call (817) 222–5110.

Examining the AD Docket
You may examine the AD docket at https://www.regulations.gov by searching for and locating Docket No. FAA 2021–0619; or in person at Docket Operations between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays. The AD docket contains this final rule, any comments received, and other information. The street address for Docket Operations is listed above.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: David Wilson, Aerospace Engineer, DSCO Branch, Compliance & Airworthiness Division, FAA, 10101 Hillwood Pkwy., Fort Worth, TX 76177; telephone (817) 222–5786; email david.wilson@faa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: