

alternative method of compliance in accordance with paragraph (d) of this AD. The request should include an assessment of the effect of the modification, alteration, or repair on the unsafe condition addressed by this AD; and, if the unsafe condition has not been eliminated, the request should include specific proposed actions to address it.

**Compliance:** Required as indicated, unless accomplished previously.

To prevent cracking in frame 179 of the fuselage, which could result in structural failure of the fuselage and consequent rapid decompression of the pressurized section of the fuselage, accomplish the following:

(a) Prior to the accumulation of 3,000 total flight cycles, or within 300 flight cycles after the effective date of this AD, whichever occurs later, perform a detailed visual inspection to detect cracks on frame 179 at the attachment bracket for the door restraint cable, in accordance with Part 1 of the Accomplishment Instructions of Jetstream Alert Service Bulletin J41-A53-024, dated April 26, 1996.

(1) If no crack is detected, repeat the visual inspection thereafter at intervals not to exceed 1,000 flight cycles. After each inspection, perform the actions specified in paragraph (c) of this AD.

(2) If any crack is detected, prior to further flight, repair it in accordance with a method approved by the Manager, Standardization Branch, ANM-113, FAA, Transport Airplane Directorate. After repair, perform the actions specified in paragraph (c) of this AD.

(b) Within 24 months after the effective date of this AD, perform the visual inspection specified in paragraph (a) of this AD in accordance with Part 2 of the Accomplishment Instructions of Jetstream Alert Service Bulletin J41-A53-024, dated April 26, 1996; and accomplish the applicable follow-on actions specified in paragraph (b)(1) or (b)(2) of this AD.

(1) If no crack is detected, prior to further flight, install new doublers and stress pads on frame 179 in accordance with the alert service bulletin. Immediately after installation, perform the actions specified in paragraph (c) of this AD. Accomplishment of these actions constitutes terminating action for the repetitive inspection requirements of paragraph (a)(1) of this AD.

(2) If any crack is detected, prior to further flight, repair it in accordance with a method approved by the Manager, Standardization Branch, ANM-113. Prior to further flight following accomplishment of the repair, install new doublers and stress pads on frame 179 in accordance with the alert service bulletin; and then perform the actions specified in paragraph (c) of this AD. Accomplishment of these actions constitutes terminating action for the repetitive inspection requirements of paragraph (a)(1) of this AD.

(c) Prior to further flight following accomplishment of the actions as specified in paragraph (a)(1), (a)(2), (b)(1), or (b)(2) of this AD, perform a test to verify proper adjustment of the restraint cable, in accordance with Jetstream Alert Service Bulletin J41-A53-024, dated April 26, 1996. If the restraint cable has been improperly adjusted, prior to further flight, correct the

discrepancy in accordance with the alert service bulletin.

(d) An alternative method of compliance or adjustment of the compliance time that provides an acceptable level of safety may be used if approved by the Manager, Standardization Branch, ANM-113. Operators shall submit their requests through an appropriate FAA Principal Maintenance Inspector, who may add comments and then send it to the Manager, Standardization Branch, ANM-113.

**Note 2:** Information concerning the existence of approved alternative methods of compliance with this AD, if any, may be obtained from the Standardization Branch, ANM-113.

(e) Special flight permits may be issued in accordance with sections 21.197 and 21.199 of the Federal Aviation Regulations (14 CFR 21.197 and 21.199) to operate the airplane to a location where the requirements of this AD can be accomplished.

(f) Certain actions shall be done in accordance with Jetstream Alert Service Bulletin J41-A53-024, dated April 26, 1996. This incorporation by reference was approved by the Director of the Federal Register in accordance with 5 U.S.C. 552(a) and 1 CFR part 51. Copies may be obtained from Jetstream Aircraft, Inc., P.O. Box 16029, Dulles International Airport, Washington, DC 20041-6029. Copies may be inspected at the FAA, Transport Airplane Directorate, 1601 Lind Avenue, SW., Renton, Washington; or at the Office of the Federal Register, 800 North Capitol Street, NW., suite 700, Washington, DC.

(g) This amendment becomes effective on June 16, 1997.

Issued in Renton, Washington, on May 2, 1997.

**S.R. Miller,**

*Acting Manager, Transport Airplane Directorate, Aircraft Certification Service.*  
[FR Doc. 97-12044 Filed 5-9-97; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4910-13-U**

## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

### Federal Aviation Administration

#### 14 CFR Part 39

[Docket No. 97-NM-90-AD; Amendment 39-10023; AD 97-10-11]

**RIN 2120-AA64**

#### Airworthiness Directives; Boeing Model 777 Series Airplanes

**AGENCY:** Federal Aviation Administration, DOT.

**ACTION:** Final rule; request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** This amendment adopts a new airworthiness directive (AD) that is applicable to all Boeing Model 777 series airplanes. This action requires repetitive testing of the engine fire shutoff switch (EFSS) to determine that

the override mechanism and the switch handle are operational, and replacement of the EFSS, if necessary. This action also requires, for certain airplanes, installation of a collar on a specific circuit breaker of the standby power management panel, and installation of placards to advise the flightcrew that the override mechanism must be pushed in order to pull the fire switch. This amendment is prompted by a report indicating that a solenoid and an override mechanism of the EFSS were not operational due to overheating of the solenoid. The actions specified in this AD are intended to prevent damage to the EFSS solenoid and to the override mechanism, and consequent failure of the EFSS due to overheating of the solenoid; such failure of the EFSS could result in the inability of the flightcrew to discharge the fire extinguishing agent in the event of an engine fire.

**DATES:** Effective May 27, 1997.

The incorporation by reference of certain publications listed in the regulations is approved by the Director of the Federal Register as of May 27, 1997.

Comments for inclusion in the Rules Docket must be received on or before July 11, 1997.

**ADDRESSES:** Submit comments in triplicate to the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), Transport Airplane Directorate, ANM-103, Attention: Rules Docket No. 97-NM-90-AD, 1601 Lind Avenue, SW., Renton, Washington 98055-4056.

The service information referenced in this AD may be obtained from Boeing Commercial Airplane Group, P.O. Box 3707, Seattle, Washington 98124-2207. This information may be examined at the FAA, Transport Airplane Directorate, 1601 Lind Avenue, SW., Renton, Washington; or at the Office of the Federal Register, 800 North Capitol Street, NW., suite 700, Washington, DC.

#### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Larry Reising, Aerospace Engineer, Propulsion Branch, ANM-140S, FAA, Seattle Aircraft Certification Office, 1601 Lind Avenue, SW., Renton, Washington; telephone (425) 227-2683; fax (425) 227-1181.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The FAA has received a report indicating that a solenoid and an override mechanism of the engine fire shutoff switch (EFSS) were not operational. Investigation revealed that an overheating condition in the solenoid damaged the solenoid and the override mechanism of the EFSS. Further investigation revealed that the overheating condition of the solenoid may be caused when power is applied to the EFSS solenoid for long

periods of time, such as when the airplane is on the ground with the power on and the engine fuel control switch is in the "Cutoff" position. Damage to the EFSS solenoid and to the override mechanism due to overheating of the solenoid could result in failure of the EFSS. Such failure, if not corrected, could result in the inability of the flightcrew to discharge the fire extinguishing agent in the event of an engine fire.

#### **Explanation of Relevant Service Information**

The FAA has reviewed and approved Boeing Alert Service Bulletin 777-26A0012, dated May 1, 1997, which describes procedures for repetitive testing of the EFSS of both the left- and right-hand engines to determine if the override mechanism and the switch handle are operational, and replacement of the EFSS, if necessary. For any airplanes on which a collar on circuit breaker C26612 of panel P310 of the standby power management panel has not been installed, the alert service bulletin also describes procedures to perform that installation, and to install placards near the EFSS of both engines and near the auxiliary power unit (APU) EFSS to advise the flightcrew that the override mechanism must be pushed in order to pull the fire switch. Installation of the collar on circuit breaker C26612 of panel P310, which is the circuit breaker that supplies power to the EFSS solenoids, will prevent damage to the EFSS due to overheating of the solenoid.

#### **Explanation of the Requirements of the Rule**

Since an unsafe condition has been identified that is likely to exist or develop on other Boeing Model 777 series airplanes of the same type design, this AD is being issued to prevent damage to the EFSS solenoid and to the override mechanism and consequent failure of the EFSS due to overheating of the solenoid; such failure could result in the inability of the flightcrew to discharge the fire extinguishing agent in the event of an engine fire. This AD requires repetitive testing of the EFSS of both the left- and right-hand engines to determine if the override mechanism and the switch handle are operational, and replacement of the EFSS, if necessary. For certain airplanes, this AD requires installation of a collar on circuit breaker C26612 of panel P310 of the standby power management panel, and installation of placards near the EFSS of both engines and near the APU EFSS to advise the flightcrew that the override mechanism must be pushed in order to pull the fire switch. The actions

are required to be accomplished in accordance with the alert service bulletin described previously.

#### **Interim Action**

This is considered to be interim action until final action is identified, at which time the FAA may consider further rulemaking.

#### **Determination of Rule's Effective Date**

Since a situation exists that requires the immediate adoption of this regulation, it is found that notice and opportunity for prior public comment hereon are impracticable, and that good cause exists for making this amendment effective in less than 30 days.

#### **Comments Invited**

Although this action is in the form of a final rule that involves requirements affecting flight safety and, thus, was not preceded by notice and an opportunity for public comment, comments are invited on this rule. Interested persons are invited to comment on this rule by submitting such written data, views, or arguments as they may desire. Communications shall identify the Rules Docket number and be submitted in triplicate to the address specified under the caption **ADDRESSES**. All communications received on or before the closing date for comments will be considered, and this rule may be amended in light of the comments received. Factual information that supports the commenter's ideas and suggestions is extremely helpful in evaluating the effectiveness of the AD action and determining whether additional rulemaking action would be needed.

Comments are specifically invited on the overall regulatory, economic, environmental, and energy aspects of the rule that might suggest a need to modify the rule. All comments submitted will be available, both before and after the closing date for comments, in the Rules Docket for examination by interested persons. A report that summarizes each FAA-public contact concerned with the substance of this AD will be filed in the Rules Docket.

Commenters wishing the FAA to acknowledge receipt of their comments submitted in response to this rule must submit a self-addressed, stamped postcard on which the following statement is made: "Comments to Docket Number 97-NM-90-AD." The postcard will be date stamped and returned to the commenter.

#### **Regulatory Impact**

The regulations adopted herein will not have substantial direct effects 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. Therefore, in accordance with Executive Order 12612, it is determined that this final rule does not have sufficient federalism implications to warrant the preparation of a Federalism Assessment.

The FAA has determined that this regulation is an emergency regulation that must be issued immediately to correct an unsafe condition in aircraft, and that it is not a "significant regulatory action" under Executive Order 12866. It has been determined further that this action involves an emergency regulation under DOT Regulatory Policies and Procedures (44 FR 11034, February 26, 1979). If it is determined that this emergency regulation otherwise would be significant under DOT Regulatory Policies and Procedures, a final regulatory evaluation will be prepared and placed in the Rules Docket. A copy of it, if filed, may be obtained from the Rules Docket at the location provided under the caption **ADDRESSES**.

#### **List of Subjects in 14 CFR Part 39**

Air transportation, Aircraft, Aviation safety, Incorporation by reference, Safety.

#### **Adoption of the Amendment**

Accordingly, pursuant to the authority delegated to me by the Administrator, the Federal Aviation Administration amends part 39 of the Federal Aviation Regulations (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. Section 39.13 is amended by adding the following new airworthiness directive:

**97-10-11 Boeing:** Amendment 39-10023. Docket 97-NM-90-AD.

**Applicability:** All Model 777 series airplanes, certificated in any category.

**Note 1:** This AD applies to each airplane identified in the preceding applicability provision, regardless of whether it has been modified, altered, or repaired in the area subject to the requirements of this AD. For airplanes that have been otherwise modified, altered, or repaired so that the performance of the requirements of this AD is affected, the owner/operator must request approval for an alternative method of compliance in accordance with paragraph (c) of this AD.

The request should include an assessment of the effect of the modification, alteration, or repair on the unsafe condition addressed by this AD; and, if the unsafe condition has not been eliminated, the request should include specific proposed actions to address it.

**Compliance:** Required as indicated, unless accomplished previously.

To prevent damage to the engine fire shutoff switch (EFSS) solenoid and to the override mechanism, and consequent failure of the EFSS, which could result in the inability of the flightcrew to discharge the fire extinguishing agent in the event of an engine fire, accomplish the following:

(a) For all airplanes: Within 14 days after the effective date of this AD, perform a test of the EFSS of both the left and right-hand engines to determine if the override mechanism and the switch handle are operational, in accordance with Boeing Alert Service Bulletin 777-26A0012, dated May 1, 1997.

(1) If the override mechanism and the switch handle of the EFSS are operational, prior to further flight, accomplish the requirements of paragraph (a)(1)(i) or (a)(1)(ii) of this AD, as applicable, in accordance with the alert service bulletin.

(i) For Group 1 airplanes identified in the alert service bulletin: Install a collar on circuit breaker C26612 of panel P310 of the standby power management panel. Following accomplishment of this installation, prior to further flight, install placards near the EFSS of both engines and near the auxiliary power unit (APU) EFSS to advise the flightcrew that the override mechanism must be pushed in order to pull the fire switch.

(ii) For Group 2 airplanes identified in the alert service bulletin: Ensure that a collar is installed on circuit breaker C26612 of panel P310 of the standby power management panel. If a collar is not installed, prior to further flight, install a collar on circuit breaker C26612 of panel P310 of the standby power management panel.

(2) If the override mechanism or the switch handle of the EFSS is not operational, prior to further flight, replace the EFSS with a new or serviceable EFSS, in accordance with the alert service bulletin.

(b) For all airplanes: Repeat the requirements of paragraph (a) of this AD thereafter at intervals not to exceed 500 flight hours.

(c) An alternative method of compliance or adjustment of the compliance time that provides an acceptable level of safety may be used if approved by the Manager, Seattle Aircraft Certification Office (ACO), FAA, Transport Airplane Directorate. Operators shall submit their requests through an appropriate FAA Principal Maintenance Inspector, who may add comments and then send it to the Manager, Seattle ACO.

**Note 2:** Information concerning the existence of approved alternative methods of compliance with this AD, if any, may be obtained from the Seattle ACO.

(d) Special flight permits may be issued in accordance with sections 21.197 and 21.199 of the Federal Aviation Regulations (14 CFR 21.197 and 21.199) to operate the airplane to a location where the requirements of this AD can be accomplished.

(e) The actions shall be done in accordance with Boeing Alert Service Bulletin 777-26A0012, dated May 1, 1997. This incorporation by reference was approved by the Director of the Federal Register in accordance with 5 U.S.C. 552(a) and 1 CFR part 51. Copies may be obtained from Boeing Commercial Airplane Group, P.O. Box 3707, Seattle, Washington 98124-2207. Copies may be inspected at the FAA, Transport Airplane Directorate, 1601 Lind Avenue, SW., Renton, Washington; or at the Office of the Federal Register, 800 North Capitol Street, NW., suite 700, Washington, DC.

(f) This amendment becomes effective on May 27, 1997.

Issued in Renton, Washington, on May 5, 1997.

**S.R. Miller,**

*Acting Manager, Transport Airplane Directorate, Aircraft Certification Service.*

[FR Doc. 97-12249 Filed 5-9-97; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

### Federal Aviation Administration

#### 14 CFR Part 39

[Docket No. 96-NM-283-AD; Amendment 39-10024; AD 97-10-12]

**RIN 2120-AA64**

#### Airworthiness Directives; McDonnell Douglas Model MD-11 Series Airplanes

**AGENCY:** Federal Aviation Administration, DOT.

**ACTION:** Final rule.

**SUMMARY:** This amendment adopts a new airworthiness directive (AD), applicable to certain McDonnell Douglas Model MD-11 series airplanes, that requires a one-time inspection to detect riding, chafing, or damage of the wire bundles adjacent to the disconnect panel bracket of the observer's station. This amendment also requires repair or replacement of damaged wires with new or serviceable wires; installation of anti-chafing sleeving on the wire bundles, if necessary; and installation of grommet along the entire upper aft edge of the disconnect panel bracket. This amendment is prompted by a report indicating that the circuit breakers tripped on a Model MD-11 series airplane due to inflight arcing behind the avionics circuit breaker panel as a result of chafing of the wire bundles adjacent to the disconnect panel bracket assembly. The actions specified by this AD are intended to detect and correct such chafing, which could result in a fire in the wire bundles and smoke in the cockpit.

**DATES:** Effective June 16, 1997.

The incorporation by reference of certain publications listed in the regulations is approved by the Director of the Federal Register as of June 16, 1997.

**ADDRESSES:** The service information referenced in this AD may be obtained from McDonnell Douglas Corporation, 3855 Lakewood Boulevard, Long Beach, California 90846, Attention: Technical Publications Business Administration, Department C1-L51 (2-60). This information may be examined at the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), Transport Airplane Directorate, Rules Docket, 1601 Lind Avenue, SW., Renton, Washington; or at the FAA, Transport Airplane Directorate, Los Angeles Aircraft Certification Office, 3960 Paramount Boulevard, Lakewood, California; or at the Office of the Federal Register, 800 North Capitol Street, NW., suite 700, Washington, DC.

#### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Brett Portwood, Aerospace Engineer, Systems and Equipment Branch, ANM-130L, FAA, Transport Airplane Directorate, Los Angeles Aircraft Certification Office, 3960 Paramount Boulevard, Lakewood, California 90712; telephone (562) 627-5350; fax (562) 627-5210.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** A proposal to amend part 39 of the Federal Aviation Regulations (14 CFR part 39) to include an airworthiness directive (AD) that is applicable to certain McDonnell Douglas Model MD-11 series airplanes was published in the **Federal Register** on February 18, 1997 (62 FR 7182). That action proposed to require a one-time inspection to detect riding, chafing, or damage of the wire bundles adjacent to the disconnect panel bracket of the observer's station. That action also proposed to require repair or replacement of damaged wires with new or serviceable wires; installation of anti-chafing sleeving on the wire bundles, if necessary; and installation of grommet along the entire upper aft edge of the disconnect panel bracket.

Interested persons have been afforded an opportunity to participate in the making of this amendment. Due consideration has been given to the two comments received.

Both commenters support the proposal.

#### Conclusion

After careful review of the available data, including the comments noted above, the FAA has determined that air safety and the public interest require the adoption of the rule as proposed.