

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 proposal would not have sufficient federalism implications to warrant the preparation of a Federalism Assessment.

For the reasons discussed above, I certify that 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); and (3) if promulgated, 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. A copy of the draft regulatory evaluation prepared for this action is contained in the Rules Docket. A copy of it may be obtained by contacting the Rules Docket at the location provided under the caption **ADDRESSES**.

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

Air transportation, Aircraft, Aviation safety, Safety.

#### The Proposed Amendment

Accordingly, pursuant to the authority delegated to me by the Administrator, the Federal Aviation Administration proposes to amend 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:

Construcciones Aeronauticas, S.A., CASA:  
Docket 96-NM-144-AD.

*Applicability:* All Model CN-235, CN-235-100, and CN-235-200 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 otherwise modified, altered, or repaired in the area subject to the requirements of this AD. For airplanes that have been 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 in-flight uncommanded activation of the propeller brake system, which could result in in-flight shutdown of the engine, accomplish the following:

(a) Within 10 days after the effective date of this AD, disable the brake control valve of the propeller in accordance with Annex 1 of CASA Communication COM 235-82, Revision 3, dated January 31, 1995.

(b) Prior to restoring propeller brake operation, replace the propeller brake control unit having part number (P/N) HP1410100-5 or HP1410100-7, with a new propeller brake control unit having P/N HP1410100-9, in accordance with CASA Service Bulletin SB-235-61-01, dated October 11, 1994; or CASA Service Bulletin SB-235-61-01M, Revision 2 (for military airplanes), dated January 25, 1996; as applicable. Accomplishment of this replacement constitutes terminating action for the requirements of paragraph (a) of this AD.

(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, Standardization Branch, ANM-113, 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, 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.

(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.

Issued in Renton, Washington, on February 11, 1997.

Darrell M. Pederson,

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

[FR Doc. 97-3966 Filed 2-18-97; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4910-13-U**

### **14 CFR Part 39**

**[Docket No. 96-NM-155-AD]**

**RIN 2120-AA64**

### **Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Model A300, A310, and A300-600 Series Airplanes**

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

**ACTION:** Notice of proposed rulemaking (NPRM).

**SUMMARY:** This document proposes the adoption of a new airworthiness directive (AD) that is applicable to all Airbus Model A300, A310, and A300-600 series airplanes. This proposal would require performing a ram air turbine (RAT) extension test; removing and disassembling the RAT lever assembly; performing an inspection to detect corrosion of the RAT lever assembly, and replacement with a new assembly, if necessary; and cleaning all the parts of the RAT control shaft and its bearing component parts. This proposal is prompted by reports indicating that the RAT did not extend during ground testing, due to corrosion in the uplock pin/shaft and the needle bearing of the RAT. The actions specified by the proposed AD are intended to detect and correct such corrosion of the RAT, which could result in failure of the RAT to deploy and subsequent loss of emergency hydraulic power to the flight controls in the event that power is lost in both engines.

**DATES:** Comments must be received by March 31, 1997.

**ADDRESSES:** Submit comments in triplicate to the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), Transport Airplane Directorate, ANM-103, Attention: Rules Docket No. 96-NM-155-AD, 1601 Lind Avenue, SW., Renton, Washington 98055-4056. Comments may be inspected at this location between 9:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays.

The service information referenced in the proposed rule may be obtained from Airbus Industrie, 1 Rond Point Maurice Bellonte, 31707 Blagnac Cedex, France. This information may be examined at the FAA, Transport Airplane Directorate, 1601 Lind Avenue, SW., Renton, Washington.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Charles Huber, Aerospace Engineer, Standardization Branch, ANM-113, FAA, Transport Airplane Directorate, 1601 Lind Avenue, SW., Renton, Washington 98055-4056; telephone (206) 227-2589; fax (206) 227-1149.

### **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

#### **Comments Invited**

Interested persons are invited to participate in the making of the proposed 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 above. All communications received on or before the closing date for comments, specified above, will be

considered before taking action on the proposed rule. The proposals contained in this notice may be changed in light of the comments received.

Comments are specifically invited on the overall regulatory, economic, environmental, and energy aspects of the proposed 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 summarizing each FAA-public contact concerned with the substance of this proposal will be filed in the Rules Docket.

Commenters wishing the FAA to acknowledge receipt of their comments submitted in response to this notice must submit a self-addressed, stamped postcard on which the following statement is made: "Comments to Docket Number 96-NM-155-AD." The postcard will be date stamped and returned to the commenter.

#### Availability of NPRMs

Any person may obtain a copy of this NPRM by submitting a request to the FAA, Transport Airplane Directorate, ANM-103, Attention: Rules Docket No. 96-NM-155-AD, 1601 Lind Avenue, SW., Renton, Washington 98055-4056.

#### Discussion

The Direction Generale de l'Aviation Civile (DGAC), which is the airworthiness authority for France, recently notified the FAA that an unsafe condition may exist on all Airbus Model A300, A310, and A300-600 series airplanes. The DGAC advises that it has received reports indicating that the ram air turbine (RAT) did not extend during ground tests. Investigation revealed that the non-extension of the RAT was due to corrosion of the RAT control shaft and its bearing needles between the uplock unit and the lever connected to the control linkage. Corrosion of the RAT uplock pin/shaft and needle, if not detected and corrected in a timely manner, could result in failure of the RAT to deploy and subsequent loss of emergency hydraulic power to the flight controls in the event that power is lost in both engines.

#### Explanation of Relevant Service Information

Airbus has issued Service Bulletin A300-29-0108 (for Model A300 series airplanes), Service Bulletin A310-29-2076 (for Model A310 series airplanes), and Service Bulletin A300-29-6037 (for Model A300-600 series airplanes), all dated April 1, 1996, which describe procedures for the following:

1. Performing a RAT extension test during ground testing;
2. Removing and disassembling the RAT lever assembly (uplock assembly);
3. Performing a visual inspection to detect corrosion of the RAT lever assembly; and
4. Cleaning all the parts of the RAT lever assembly and all its associated parts.

The service bulletins also describe procedures for replacing any corroded parts with new parts. They also describe procedures for cleaning and lubricating corroded parts in lieu of replacement with new parts, in situations where new parts are not readily available.

The DGAC classified these service bulletins as mandatory and issued French airworthiness directive, 95-163-182(B)R2, dated June 5, 1996, in order to assure the continued airworthiness of these airplanes in France.

#### FAA's Conclusions

These airplane models are manufactured in France and are type certificated for operation in the United States under the provisions of section 21.29 of the Federal Aviation Regulations (14 CFR 21.29) and the applicable bilateral airworthiness agreement. Pursuant to this bilateral airworthiness agreement, the DGAC has kept the FAA informed of the situation described above. The FAA has examined the findings of the DGAC, reviewed all available information, and determined that AD action is necessary for products of this type design that are certificated for operation in the United States.

#### Explanation of Requirements of Proposed Rule

Since an unsafe condition has been identified that is likely to exist or develop on other airplanes of the same type design registered in the United States, the proposed AD would require a RAT extension test during ground testing; removal and disassembly of the RAT lever assembly; a visual inspection to detect corrosion of the RAT lever assembly, and replacement of the assembly with new parts, if necessary; and cleaning of the lever assembly and its associated parts. The actions would be required to be accomplished in accordance with the service bulletins described previously.

#### Differences Between Proposed AD and Referenced Service Bulletins

Operators should note that, although the Airbus service bulletins describe certain cleaning and lubrication procedures of the RAT lever assembly that can be accomplished in lieu of

replacement of corroded parts, this proposed AD would not permit those actions as an alternative to replacement. The FAA finds that, to ensure an adequate level of safety for the affected fleet, corroded parts must be replaced prior to further flight. The FAA has determined that, in cases where known unsafe conditions exist and where actions to detect and correct those unsafe conditions can be readily accomplished, those actions must be required.

#### Interim Action

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

#### Cost Impact

The FAA estimates that 80 Airbus Model A300, A310, and A300-600 series airplanes of U.S. registry would be affected by this proposed AD, that it would take approximately 10 work hours per airplane to accomplish the proposed actions, and that the average labor rate is \$60 per work hour. Required parts would be provided by the manufacturer at no cost to the operator. Based on these figures, the cost impact of the proposed AD on U.S. operators is estimated to be \$48,000, or \$600 per airplane.

The cost impact figure discussed above is based on assumptions that no operator has yet accomplished any of the proposed requirements of this AD action, and that no operator would accomplish those actions in the future if this AD were not adopted.

#### Regulatory Impact

The regulations proposed herein would 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 proposal would not have sufficient federalism implications to warrant the preparation of a Federalism Assessment.

For the reasons discussed above, I certify that 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); and (3) if promulgated, 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. A copy of the draft regulatory evaluation prepared for this

action is contained in the Rules Docket. A copy of it may be obtained by contacting the Rules Docket at the location provided under the caption **ADDRESSES**.

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

Air transportation, Aircraft, Aviation safety, Safety.

#### The Proposed Amendment

Accordingly, pursuant to the authority delegated to me by the Administrator, the Federal Aviation Administration proposes to amend 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:

Airbus Industrie: Docket 96–NM–155–AD.

*Applicability:* All Model A300, A310, and A300–600 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 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 detect and correct corrosion of the ram air turbine (RAT) uplock pin/shaft and needle that could result in failure of the RAT to deploy and subsequent loss of emergency hydraulic power to the flight controls in the event that power is lost in both engines, accomplish the following:

(a) Prior to the accumulation of 30 months total time-in-service, or within 3 months after the effective date of this AD, whichever occurs later: Accomplish the requirements of paragraphs (a)(1), (a)(2), (a)(3), and (a)(4) of this AD in accordance with Airbus Service Bulletin A300–29–0108, dated April 1, 1996 (for Model A300 series airplanes); A310–29–2076, dated April 1, 1996 (for Model A310 series airplanes); A300–29–6037, dated April 1, 1996 (for Model A300–600 series airplanes); as applicable. Thereafter, repeat these actions at intervals not to exceed 30 months.

(1) Perform a RAT extension test on the ground, in accordance with the procedures specified in the Maintenance Manual.

(2) Disassemble and remove the lever assembly of the RAT and perform a visual inspection of the lever assembly to detect corrosion, in accordance with the applicable service bulletin.

(i) If no corrosion is detected: Prior to further flight, clean and lubricate the lever assembly and its associated parts, reinstall the assembly, and perform a retraction/extension/retraction of the RAT, in accordance with the applicable service bulletin.

(ii) If any corrosion is detected in any part of the lever assembly: Prior to further flight, replace the lever assembly with a new part and perform a retraction/extension/retraction of the RAT, in accordance with the applicable service bulletin.

(b) Initial accomplishment of the actions required by paragraph (a) of this AD that have been performed in accordance with Airbus All Operator Telex (AOT) 29–16, Revision 01, dated January 10, 1996, is considered acceptable for compliance with the initial RAT extension test and an initial visual inspection as required by paragraph (a) of this AD. However, the first repetitive inspection, as required by paragraph (a) of this AD, must be performed within 30 months after that RAT extension test and visual inspection were conducted, and repeated thereafter at intervals not to exceed 30 months.

(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, Standardization Branch, ANM–113, 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, 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.

(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.

Issued in Renton, Washington, on February 11, 1997.

Darrell M. Pederson,

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

[FR Doc. 97–3965 Filed 2–18–97; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4910–13–U**

### **14 CFR Part 39**

[Docket No. 96–NM–138–AD]

RIN 2120–AA64

### **Airworthiness Directives; Construcciones Aeronauticas, S.A. (CASA) Model CN–235 Series Airplanes**

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

**ACTION:** Notice of proposed rulemaking (NPRM).

**SUMMARY:** This document proposes the adoption of a new airworthiness directive (AD) that is applicable to certain CASA Model CN–235 series airplanes. This proposal would require replacement of the guide hooks of the cargo doors with new, improved guide hooks. This proposal is prompted by fatigue cracking found in the guide hooks of the cargo door. The actions specified by the proposed AD are intended to prevent such fatigue cracking, which could result in reduced structural integrity of the cargo door and, consequently, lead to rapid decompression of the airplane.

**DATES:** Comments must be received by March 31, 1997.

**ADDRESSES:** Submit comments in triplicate to the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), Transport Airplane Directorate, ANM–103, Attention: Rules Docket No. 96–NM–138–AD, 1601 Lind Avenue, SW., Renton, Washington 98055–4056. Comments may be inspected at this location between 9:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays.

The service information referenced in the proposed rule may be obtained from Construcciones Aeronauticas, S.A., Getafe, Madrid, Spain. This information may be examined at the FAA, Transport Airplane Directorate, 1601 Lind Avenue, SW., Renton, Washington.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Greg Dunn, Aerospace Engineer, Standardization Branch, ANM–113, FAA, Transport Airplane Directorate, 1601 Lind Avenue, SW., Renton, Washington 98055–4056; telephone (206) 227–2799; fax (206) 227–1149.

#### **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

Comments Invited

Interested persons are invited to participate in the making of the proposed 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