

comment period for an additional 45 days, or until April 30, 1998. This extension of the comment period will provide interested persons a total of 135 days to review the proposed rule and submit comments. AMS believes that this 45 day extension will provide a sufficient period of time for all commenters so that a further extension would be unnecessary.

Accordingly, AMS is extending the comment period on the NOP proposed rule until April 30, 1998.

Authority: 7 U.S.C. 6501-6522.

Dated: February 5, 1998.

Eileen S. Stommes,

Deputy Administrator, Transportation and Marketing.

[FR Doc. 98-3285 Filed 2-5-98; 11:09 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-02-P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Aviation Administration

14 CFR Part 39

[Docket No. 97-NM-151-AD]

RIN 2120-AA64

Airworthiness Directives; Saab Model SAAB 2000 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 Saab Model SAAB 2000 series airplanes. This proposal would require repetitive inspections for excessive wear of the aileron control cables, cable guides, and cable pulleys located at the rear wing spars, and corrective actions, if necessary. This proposal also would require repetitive replacement of the control cables and cable guides with new or serviceable components. This proposal is prompted by the issuance of mandatory continuing airworthiness information by a foreign civil airworthiness authority. The actions specified by the proposed AD are intended to detect and correct excessive wear on the aileron control cables, cable guides, and cable pulleys located at the rear wing spars, which could result in broken aileron control cables and consequent reduced controllability of the airplane.

DATES: Comments must be received by March 11, 1998.

ADDRESSES: Submit comments in triplicate to the Federal Aviation

Administration (FAA), Transport Airplane Directorate, ANM-114, Attention: Rules Docket No. 97-NM-151-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 Saab Aircraft AB, Saab Aircraft Product Support, S-581.88, Linköping, Sweden. This information may be examined at the FAA, Transport Airplane Directorate, 1601 Lind Avenue, SW., Renton, Washington.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Norman B. Martenson, Manager, International Branch, ANM-116, FAA, Transport Airplane Directorate, 1601 Lind Avenue SW, Renton, Washington 98055-4056; telephone (425) 227-2110; fax (425) 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 97-NM-151-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-114, Attention: Rules Docket No.

97-NM-151-AD, 1601 Lind Avenue, SW., Renton, Washington 98055-4056.

Discussion

The Luftfartsverket (LFV), which is the airworthiness authority for Sweden, notified the FAA that an unsafe condition may exist on certain Saab Model SAAB 2000 series airplanes. The LFV advises that it has received reports of excessive wear of the aileron control cables at the positions of the cable guides located at the rear wing spars. The cause of this wear has been attributed to chafing that occurred between the cables and the cable guides. Such wear, if not detected and corrected in a timely manner, could result in broken aileron control cables and consequent reduced controllability of the airplane.

Explanation of Relevant Service Information

Saab has issued Service Bulletin 2000-27-033, dated April 29, 1997, which describes procedures for repetitive inspections for excessive wear of the aileron control cables, cable guides, and cable pulleys located at the rear wing spars, and corrective actions, if necessary. These corrective actions include replacement of discrepant cables, cable guides, and pulleys with serviceable parts; and rotation of the cable pulleys to ensure that the bearings are not damaged. The service bulletin also describes procedures for repetitive replacement of the control cables and cable guides with new or serviceable control cables and cable guides. The LFV classified this service bulletin as mandatory and issued Swedish airworthiness directive SAD No. 1-111, dated April 30, 1997, in order to assure the continued airworthiness of these airplanes in Sweden.

FAA's Conclusions

This airplane model is manufactured in Sweden and is type certificated for operation in the United States under the provisions of § 21.29 of the Federal Aviation Regulations (14 CFR 21.29) and the applicable bilateral airworthiness agreement. Pursuant to this bilateral airworthiness agreement, the LFV has kept the FAA informed of the situation described above. The FAA has examined the findings of the LFV, 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 accomplishment of the actions specified in the 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.

Cost Impact

The FAA estimates that 3 airplanes of U.S. registry would be affected by this proposed AD.

It would take approximately 1 work hour per airplane to accomplish the proposed inspection, at an average labor rate of \$60 per work hour. Based on these figures, the cost impact of the proposed inspection required by this AD on U.S. operators is estimated to be \$180, or \$60 per airplane, per inspection cycle.

It would take approximately 8 work hours per airplane to accomplish the proposed replacement, at an average labor rate of \$60 per work hour. Required parts would be supplied by the manufacturer at no cost to the operators. Based on these figures, the cost impact of the proposed replacement required by this AD on U.S. operators is estimated to be \$1,440, or \$480 per airplane, per replacement.

The cost impact figures discussed above are 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:

SAAB Aircraft AB: Docket 97-NM-151-AD.

Applicability: Model 2000 series airplanes, serial numbers 004 through 059 inclusive, 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 excessive wear of the aileron control cables, cable guides, and cable pulleys located at the rear wing spars, which could result in broken aileron control cables and consequent reduced controllability of the airplane, accomplish the following:

(a) Inspect to detect discrepancies of the left- and right-hand aileron control cables, cable guides, and cable pulleys at the time specified in paragraph (a)(1) or (a)(2) of this AD, as applicable, in accordance with Saab Service Bulletin 2000-27-033, dated April 29, 1997. Repeat the inspection thereafter at

intervals not to exceed 500 flight hours. If any discrepancy is found during any inspection required by this AD, prior to further flight, perform corrective action in accordance with the service bulletin.

(1) For airplanes on which Saab Modification 5784 has been installed: Inspect at the later of the times specified in paragraphs (a)(1)(i) and (a)(1)(ii) of this AD.

(i) Prior to the accumulation of 1,800 total flight hours; or within 1,800 flight hours after accomplishment of the modification or replacement of any control cable; whichever occurs latest. Or

(ii) Within 200 flight hours after the effective date of this AD.

(2) For airplanes on which Saab Modification 5784 has not been installed: Inspect at the later of the times specified in paragraphs (a)(2)(i) and (a)(2)(ii) of this AD.

(i) Prior to the accumulation of 3,200 total flight hours, or within 3,200 flight hours after replacement of any control cable, whichever occurs later. Or

(ii) Within 200 flight hours after the effective date of this AD.

Note 2: Although the inspection schedules of this AD apply to both left- and right-hand wing cable systems, replacement of the cable, guide, or pulley on one wing only, prior to scheduled replacement, would result in subsequent staggered inspections for the components of the left- and right-hand cable systems.

(b) Replace the aileron control cables, cable guides, and cable pulleys with new or serviceable parts, as applicable; at the time specified in paragraph (b)(1) or (b)(2) of this AD, as applicable; in accordance with Saab Service Bulletin 2000-27-033, dated April 29, 1997.

(1) For airplanes on which Saab Modification 5784 has been installed: Replace at the later of the times specified in paragraphs (b)(1)(i) and (b)(1)(ii) of this AD. Thereafter, repeat the inspection required by paragraph (a) of this AD at the time specified in paragraph (a)(1); and replace the control cables and cable guides thereafter prior to the accumulation of 3,200 flight hours after replacement of any control cable.

(i) Prior to the accumulation of 3,200 total flight hours; or within 3,200 flight hours after installation of the modification, or after replacement of any control cable; whichever occurs latest. Or

(ii) Within 200 flight hours after the effective date of this AD.

(2) For airplanes on which Modification 5784 has not been installed: Replace at the later of the times specified in paragraphs (b)(2)(i) and (b)(2)(ii) of this AD. Thereafter, repeat the inspections required by paragraph (a) of this AD at the time specified in paragraph (a)(2); and replace the control cables and cable guides thereafter prior to the accumulation of 6,200 flight hours following replacement of any control cable.

(i) Prior to the accumulation of 6,200 total flight hours, or within 6,200 flight hours after replacement of any control cable, whichever occurs later. Or

(ii) Within 200 flight hours after the effective date 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, International Branch, ANM-116, 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, International Branch, ANM-116.

Note 3: Information concerning the existence of approved alternative methods of compliance with this AD, if any, may be obtained from the International Branch, ANM-116.

(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.

Note 4: The subject of this AD is addressed in Swedish airworthiness directive SAD No. 1-111, dated April 30, 1997.

Issued in Renton, Washington, on February 2, 1998.

Darrell M. Pederson,

Acting Manager, Transport Airplane Directorate, Aircraft Certification Service.
[FR Doc. 98-3129 Filed 2-6-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-13-U

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Aviation Administration

14 CFR Part 39

[Docket No. 97-NM-337-AD]

RIN 2120-AA64

Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Model 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 certain Airbus Model A310 and A300-600 series airplanes. This proposal would require a one-time, detailed visual inspection for discrepancies of the electrical bundles in the power generation compartment, and corrective actions, if necessary. This proposal is prompted by issuance of mandatory continuing airworthiness information by a foreign civil airworthiness authority. The actions specified by the proposed AD are intended to prevent chafing and consequent damage to the electrical generation wires in the 101VU panel, which could result in a loss of electrical generation channels.

DATES: Comments must be received by March 11, 1998.

ADDRESSES: Submit comments in triplicate to the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), Transport Airplane Directorate, ANM-114, Attention: Rules Docket No. 97-NM-337-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:

Norman B. Martenson, Manager, International Branch, ANM-116, FAA, Transport Airplane Directorate, 1601 Lind Avenue, SW., Renton, Washington 98055-4056; telephone (425) 227-2110; fax (425) 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 97-NM-337-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-114, Attention: Rules Docket No. 97-NM-337-AD, 1601 Lind Avenue, SW., Renton, Washington 98055-4056.

Discussion

The Direction Générale de l'Aviation Civile (DGAC), which is the airworthiness authority for France, notified the FAA that an unsafe condition may exist on certain Airbus Model A310 and A300-600 series airplanes. The DGAC advises that an A300-600 series airplane experienced the loss of both main alternating current (AC) electrical generation channels during a landing rollout due to wire chafing and short circuiting of the electrical generation wires in the 101VU panel in the forward avionics compartment. Investigation revealed that such chafing may result if a cable-tie is missing, or if the wire bundle is routed too close to a bracket, or if the bundle is not properly formed and cables consequently balloon. Prior to the incident, the airplane's wiring in the associated area had been modified in accordance with Airbus Service Bulletins A300-24-6064 and A300-24-6058. The wiring discrepancy has been attributed to inadequate installation of this modification during production. A similar modification for Model A310 series airplanes could result in similar discrepancies on that model. Such discrepancies, if not corrected, could result in chafing and consequent damage to the electrical generation wires in the 101VU panel, which could result in a loss of electrical generation channels.

Explanation of Relevant Service Information

Airbus has issued All Operator Telex (AOT) 24-08, dated April 17, 1997, which describes procedures for a one-time, detailed visual inspection for discrepancies (damage, risk of chafing, loom ballooning, or loose or missing cable ties) of the electrical bundles in the power generation compartment, and corrective actions, if necessary. The corrective actions include repairing damaged wires, repositioning the bundles and securing the routing with cable ties to ensure adequate clearance, and checking certain clearances. The DGAC classified this AOT as mandatory and issued French airworthiness directive 97-152-225(B), dated July 16, 1997, 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