

keeper with a copy of the SF-50, Notification of Personnel Action, indicating reemployment or reinstatement was made pursuant to 38 U.S.C. chapter 43, or a letter from his or her agency indicating reemployment or restoration pursuant to 38 U.S.C. chapter 43. If the participant is eligible to return a withdrawal and/or reverse a distribution, the TSP record keeper will:

(1) In the case of a request to return withdrawn funds, notify the employee of the amount of funds to be returned.

(2) In the case of a request to reverse a taxable distribution, reinstate the loan if permitted, or if not, inform the employee of the repayment amount for the loan.

(3) In the case of returned withdrawal and a repaid loan, inform the employee that both actions must be accomplished in the same transaction (i.e., one payment for both amounts).

(4) In all cases inform the employee that he or she must provide the funds in a single payment to the TSP record keeper within 90 days after the record keeper sends the employee the notice advising of the amount and procedures for repaying the loan or withdrawal. Repayment must be submitted in the form of a certified or cashier's check, a certified or treasurer's draft from a credit union, or a money order.

(d) *Earnings*. Employees will not receive retroactive earnings on any amounts returned to their accounts under this section.

#### § 1620.46 Agency responsibilities.

(a) *General*. Each employing agency must establish procedures for implementing these regulations. These procedures must at a minimum require agency personnel to identify eligible employees and notify them of their options under these regulations and the time period within which these options must be exercised.

(b) *Agency records; procedure for reimbursement*. The agency that is making the payments to the record keeper for all contributions (both employee and agency) and lost earnings will obtain from prior employing agencies whatever information is necessary to make accurate payments. If a prior employing agency is ultimately chargeable under § 1620.43(b) for all or part of the expense of agency contributions and lost earnings, the agency making the payments to the record keeper will determine the procedure to follow in order to collect amounts owed to it by the agency ultimately chargeable with the expense.

(c) *Payment schedule; matching contributions report*. Agencies will, with the employee's consent, prepare a

payment schedule for making retroactive employee contributions which will be consistent with the procedures established at 5 CFR part 1605 for the correction of employing agency errors.

(d) *Agency automatic (1%) contributions*. Employing agencies must calculate the agency automatic (1%) contributions for all reemployed (or restored) FERS employees, report those contributions to the record keeper, and submit lost earnings records to cover the retroactive period within 60 days of reemployment.

(e) *Forfeiture restoration*. When notified by an employee that a forfeiture of the agency automatic (1%) contributions occurred after the employee separated to perform military service, the employing agency must submit to the record keeper Form TSP-5-R, Request to Restore Forfeited Funds, to have those funds restored.

(f) *Thrift Savings Plan Service Computation Date*. The agencies must include the period of military service in the Thrift Savings Plan Service Computation Date (TSP-SCD) of all reemployed FERS employees. If the period of military service has not been credited, the agencies must submit an employee data record to the TSP record keeper containing the correct TSP Service Computation Date.

[FR Doc. 99-6756 Filed 3-22-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6760-01-P

## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

### Federal Aviation Administration

#### 14 CFR Part 39

[Docket No. 99-ANE-02-AD]

RIN 2120-AA64

#### Airworthiness Directives; Pratt & Whitney PW2000 Series Turbofan Engines

**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 Pratt & Whitney (PW) PW2000 series turbofan engines. This proposal would require initial and repetitive inspections of certain High Pressure Turbine (HPT) stage 1 and stage 2 disks utilizing an improved ultrasonic method when the disk is exposed during a shop visit, and if a subsurface anomaly is found, removal from service and replacement

with a serviceable part. This proposal is prompted by the results of a stage 1 HPT disk fracture investigation, which has identified a population of HPT stage 1 and 2 disks that may have subsurface anomalies formed during a forging process. The actions specified by the proposed AD are intended to prevent HPT disk fracture, which could result in an uncontained engine failure, and damage to the aircraft.

**DATES:** Comments must be received by April 22, 1999.

**ADDRESSES:** Submit comments in triplicate to the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), New England Region, Office of the Regional Counsel, Attention: Rules Docket No. 98-ANE-02-AD, 12 New England Executive Park, Burlington, MA 01803-5299. Comments may also be sent via the Internet using the following address: "9-ad-engineprop@faa.dot.gov". Comments sent via the Internet must contain the docket number in the subject line. Comments may be inspected at this location between 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays.

The service information referenced in the proposed rule may be obtained from Pratt & Whitney, 400 Main St., East Hartford, CT 06108; telephone (860) 565-6600, fax (860) 565-4503. This information may be examined at the FAA, New England Region, Office of the Regional Counsel, 12 New England Executive Park, Burlington, MA.

#### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Peter White, Aerospace Engineer, Engine Certification Office, FAA, Engine and Propeller Directorate, 12 New England Executive Park, Burlington, MA 01803-5299; telephone (781) 238-7128, fax (781) 238-7199.

#### 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 should 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 99-ANE-02-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, New England Region, Office of the Regional Counsel, Attention: Rules Docket No. 99-ANE-02-AD, 12 New England Executive Park, Burlington, MA 01803-5299.

#### Discussion

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) received a report of an uncontained high pressure turbine (HPT) disk failure on an International Aero Engines (IAE) V2500-A1 series turbofan engine. The investigation into the cause of that failure revealed that certain HPT stage 1 and stage 2 disks were manufactured using a process that resulted in a subsurface defect in the disk material. The subsurface defect, called a "clean linear" anomaly, was formed during a specific forging process also used for HPT stage 1 and stage 2 disks for the PW2000 series engines. The anomaly may not have been detected during ultrasonic inspection during manufacture due to its orientation and shape. The disk failure occurred as a result of a crack that initiated at the anomaly site. An improved ultrasonic inspection has been developed which is more capable of detecting anomalies, or cracks that originate from the sites of anomalies, prior to disk failure. V2500-A1, PW2000 and JT9D-7R4 1st and 2nd stage HPT disks manufactured using this same material and forging process are affected. There are approximately 332 PW2000 HPT stage 1 and stage 2 disks that were manufactured using this material and forging process, and those disks have been identified by serial number in Pratt & Whitney (PW) Service Bulletin (SB) PW2000-72-628, dated January 4, 1999. This condition, if not corrected, could result in an HPT disk fracture, which could result in an uncontained engine failure, damage to the aircraft, and an inflight engine shutdown.

The FAA has reviewed and approved the technical contents of PW Service Bulletin (SB) PW2000 72-628, dated January 4, 1999, that describes inspection procedures and criteria for certain stage 1 and 2 HPT disks.

Since an unsafe condition has been identified that is likely to exist or develop on other products of this same type design, the proposed AD would require initial and repetitive inspections of certain stage 1 and stage 2 HPT disks using an improved ultrasonic method whenever the disk is exposed during a shop visit. If a subsurface anomaly is found, the disk must be removed from service and replaced with a serviceable part. The actions would be required to be accomplished in accordance with the SB described previously.

There are approximately 332 affected disks installed in engines in the worldwide fleet. The FAA estimates that 166 engines on aircraft of U.S. registry would be affected by this proposed AD, that the shipping cost per disk to the facility which will inspect the disk and its return will be approximately \$210 per disk, that no engines will require an unplanned HPT module disassembly/assembly, that the inspection would take approximately 12 work hours per disk to accomplish the proposed actions, and that the average labor rate is \$60 per work hour. Some disks will require multiple inspections during their service life. Based on these figures, the total cost impact of the proposed AD on U.S. operators is estimated to be \$450,000. The manufacturer has advised the FAA that the all costs relative to the inspection will be reimbursed to the operator.

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:

**Pratt & Whitney:** Docket 99-ANE-02-AD. *Applicability:* Pratt & Whitney PW2037, PW2040, PW2037M, PW2240 and PW2337 series turbofan engines, installed on but not limited to Boeing 757 and Ilyushin IL-96T series airplanes.

**Note 1:** This airworthiness directive (AD) applies to each engine 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 engines 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 high pressure turbine (HPT) disk fracture, which could result in an uncontained engine failure and damage to the aircraft, accomplish the following:

(a) For engines with a HPT stage 1 or Stage 2 disk installed that has a serial number listed in the Accomplishment Instructions section of PW SB PW2000-72-628, dated January 4, 1999, perform initial and repetitive ultrasonic inspections in accordance with the Accomplishment Instructions section of PW SB PW2000-72-628, dated January 4, 1999, as follows:

(1) Perform an initial ultrasonic inspection at the next HPT disk piece part accessibility after the effective date of this AD.

(2) Thereafter, perform an ultrasonic inspection at each HPT disk piece part accessibility after the initial inspection

performed in accordance with paragraph (a)(1) of this AD.

(b) Remove from service those HPT disks found with a crack indicating a subsurface anomaly and replace with a serviceable part.

(c) For the purposes of this AD, HPT disk piece part accessibility is defined as the separation of the HPT disk from the HPT module.

(d) For engines that do not have a HPT stage 1 or Stage 2 disk installed that has a serial number listed in the Accomplishment Instructions section of PW SB PW2000-72-628, dated January 4, 1999, no inspections are required.

(e) 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, Engine Certification Office. Operators shall submit their request through an appropriate FAA Principal Maintenance Inspector, who may add comments and then send it to the Manager, Engine Certification Office.

**Note 2:** Information concerning the existence of approved alternative methods of compliance with this airworthiness directive, if any, may be obtained from the Engine Certification Office.

(f) 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 aircraft to a location where the requirements of this AD can be accomplished.

Issued in Burlington, Massachusetts, on March 16, 1999.

**Jay J. Pardee,**

*Manager, Engine and Propeller Directorate, Aircraft Certification Service.*

[FR Doc. 99-6979 Filed 3-22-99; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

### Federal Aviation Administration

#### 14 CFR Part 39

[Docket No. 98-CE-112-AD]

RIN 2120-AA64

#### Airworthiness Directives; The New Piper Aircraft, Inc. Models PA-46-310P and PA-46-350P Airplanes

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

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

**SUMMARY:** This document proposes to adopt a new airworthiness directive (AD) that would apply to all The New Piper Aircraft, Inc. (Piper) Models PA-46-310P and PA-46-350P airplanes. The proposed AD would require calibrating the turbine inlet temperature system to assure the accuracy of the existing turbine inlet temperature indicator and wiring for all of the applicable airplanes, and repairing or

replacing any turbine inlet temperature system that fails the calibration test. The proposed AD would also require repetitively replacing the turbine inlet temperature probe on the Model PA-46-350P airplanes, and inserting a copy of this AD into the Pilot's Operating Handbook of certain airplanes. The proposed AD is the result of field reports that indicate service accuracy problems with the existing turbine inlet temperature system. The actions specified by the proposed AD are intended to prevent improper engine operation caused by improperly calibrated turbine inlet temperature indicators or defective turbine inlet temperature probes, which could result in engine damage/failure with consequent loss of control of the airplane.

**DATES:** Comments must be received on or before May 21, 1999.

**ADDRESSES:** Submit comments in triplicate to the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), Central Region, Office of the Regional Counsel, Attention: Rules Docket No. 98-CE-112-AD, Room 1558, 601 E. 12th Street, Kansas City, Missouri 64106. Comments may be inspected at this location between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m., Monday through Friday, holidays excepted.

Service information that applies to the proposed AD may be obtained from The New Piper Aircraft, Inc., Customer Services, 2926 Piper Drive, Vero Beach, Florida 32960. This information also may be examined at the Rules Docket at the address above.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Mr. Donald J. Young, Aerospace Engineer, FAA, Atlanta Aircraft Certification Office, One Crown Center, 1895 Phoenix Boulevard, Suite 450, Atlanta, Georgia 30349; telephone: (770) 703-6079; facsimile: (770) 703-6097; e-mail address: "Donald.Young@faa.gov".

#### 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 should 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 that summarizes 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 No. 98-CE-112-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, Central Region, Office of the Regional Counsel, Attention: Rules Docket No. 98-CE-112-AD, Room 1558, 601 E. 12th Street, Kansas City, Missouri 64106.

#### Discussion

The FAA has received several reports that indicate service accuracy problems with the existing turbine inlet temperature system on Piper Models PA-46-310P and PA-46-350P airplanes. In particular, an accident report cited turbine inlet temperature probe inaccuracy as a contributing factor.

In addition, 9 airplanes were randomly checked for turbine inlet temperature system accuracy. Six of these airplanes revealed turbine inlet temperature system inaccuracy (60 degrees to 110 degrees low at the 1,750-degree test point). More extensive analysis of these systems reveals the following:

- The turbine inlet temperature probe used on the Model PA-46-310P airplanes (part number 471-990) when calibrated correctly is accurate and durable; and
- The turbine inlet temperature probe used on the Model PA-46-350P airplanes (part number 481-392) when calibrated correctly is accurate, but not durable.

#### The FAA's Determination

After examining the circumstances and reviewing all available information related to the incidents described above, the FAA has determined that:

- the turbine inlet temperature systems on all Piper Models PA-46-310P and PA-46-350P airplanes should be calibrated to assure the accuracy of