

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**Federal Aviation Administration****14 CFR Part 39**

[Docket No. 97-NM-195-AD]

RIN 2120-AA64

Airworthiness Directives; British Aerospace (Jetstream) Model 4101 Airplanes

AGENCY: Federal Aviation Administration, DOT.

ACTION: Notice of proposed rulemaking (NPRM).

SUMMARY: This document proposes the superseding of an existing airworthiness directive (AD), applicable to certain British Aerospace (Jetstream) Model 4101 airplanes, that currently requires repetitive detailed visual inspections to detect cracks in the shear cleats of the roller guide structural support of the passenger door, and replacement of any cracked shear cleat with a new shear cleat. That AD also provides for an optional terminating modification that constitutes terminating action for the repetitive inspections. This action would mandate accomplishment of the previously optional terminating modification. This proposal is prompted by reports indicating that fatigue cracking was detected in the roller guide shear cleats of the passenger door. The actions specified by the proposed AD are intended to prevent such fatigue-related cracking, which could result in structural failure or loss of the passenger door, and consequent rapid depressurization of the airplane during flight.

DATES: Comments must be received by November 27, 1998.

ADDRESSES: Submit comments in triplicate to the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), Transport Airplane Directorate, ANM-114, Attention: Rules Docket No. 97-N-195-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 AI(R) American Support, Inc., 13850 Mclearen Road, Herndon, Virginia 20171. 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-195-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-195-AD, 1601 Lind Avenue, SW., Renton, Washington 98055-4056.

Discussion

On July 21, 1997, the FAA issued AD 97-16-01, amendment 39-10090 (62 FR 40267, July 28, 1997), applicable to certain British Aerospace (Jetstream) Model 4101 airplanes, to require repetitive detailed visual inspections to detect cracks in the shear cleats of the roller guide structural support of the passenger door, and replacement of any cracked shear cleat with a new shear cleat. That AD also provides for an optional modification that constitutes terminating action for the repetitive inspections. That action was prompted by a report indicating that fatigue cracking was found in the roller guide shear cleats of the passenger door. The

requirements of that AD are intended to detect and correct such fatigue-related cracking, which could result in structural failure of the passenger door, and consequent rapid depressurization of the airplane or loss of the passenger door while the airplane is in flight.

Actions Since Issuance of Previous Rule

When AD 97-16-01 was issued, it contained a provision for an optional modification of the passenger door which, if accomplished, would constitute terminating action for the required repetitive inspections. Also, in AD 97-16-01, the FAA indicated that the inspections required by that AD were considered "interim action" and that it was considering further rulemaking action to mandate accomplishment of the terminating modification. This action proposes such a requirement, to be accomplished in accordance with Jetstream Service Bulletin J41-52-050, dated May 6, 1997. (This service bulletin was described previously in AD 97-16-01.)

FAA's Conclusions

This airplane model is manufactured in the United Kingdom and is 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 Civil Aviation Authority (CAA), which is the airworthiness authority for the United Kingdom, has kept the FAA informed of the situation described above. The FAA has examined the findings of the CAA, reviewed all available information, and determined that AD action is indeed 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 supersede AD 97-16-01 to continue to require repetitive detailed visual inspections to detect cracks in the shear cleats of the roller guide structural support of the passenger door, and replacement of any cracked shear cleat with a new shear cleat. In addition, the proposed AD would mandate accomplishment of the previously optional terminating modification.

Differences Between Proposed Rule and Service Bulletin

Operators should note that this AD proposes to mandate the modification of the passenger door described in Jetstream Service Bulletin J41-52-050 as terminating action for the repetitive inspections. Incorporation of this terminating action was classified as optional in this service bulletin.

The FAA has determined that long-term continued operational safety will be better assured by design changes to remove the source of the problem, rather than by repetitive inspections. Long-term inspections may not be providing the degree of safety assurance necessary for the transport airplane fleet. This, coupled with a better understanding of the human factors associated with numerous continual inspections, has led the FAA to consider placing less emphasis on inspections and more emphasis on design improvements. The proposed modification requirement is in consonance with these conditions.

Cost Impact

There are approximately 57 airplanes of U.S. registry that would be affected by this proposed AD.

The inspections that are currently required by AD 97-16-01, and retained in this proposed AD, take approximately 3 work hours per airplane to accomplish, at an average labor rate of \$60 per work hour. Based on these figures, the cost impact of the currently required inspections on U.S. operators is estimated to be \$10,260, or \$180 per airplane, per inspection cycle.

The new modification that is proposed by this AD action would take approximately 55 work hours per airplane to accomplish, at an average labor rate of \$60 per work hour. Required parts would cost approximately \$2,460 per airplane. Based on these figures, the cost impact of the modification proposed by this AD on U.S. operators is estimated to be \$328,320, or \$5,760 per airplane.

The cost impact figures discussed above are based on assumptions that no operator has yet accomplished any of the current or 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 removing amendment 39-10090 (62 FR 40267, July 28, 1997), and by adding a new airworthiness directive (AD), to read as follows:

British Aerospace Regional Aircraft

[Formerly Jetstream Aircraft Limited; British Aerospace (Commercial Aircraft) Limited]; Docket 97-NM-195-AD. Supersedes AD 97-16-01, Amendment 39-10090.

Applicability: Jetstream Model 4101 airplanes, constructor's numbers 41004 through 41099 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 (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 fatigue-related cracking in the shear cleats of the roller guide structural support of the passenger door, which could result in structural failure or loss of the passenger door, and consequent rapid depressurization of the airplane during flight, accomplish the following:

Restatement of Requirements of AD 97-16-01

(a) Except as provided by paragraph (b) of this AD: Prior to the accumulation of 6,000 landings, or within 60 days after August 12, 1997 (the effective date of AD 97-16-01, amendment 39-10090), whichever occurs later, perform a detailed visual inspection to detect cracks of the shear cleats of the roller guide structural support of the passenger door, in accordance with Part 1 of the Accomplishment Instructions of Jetstream Alert Service Bulletin J41-A52-043, Revision 2, dated May 6, 1997. Repeat the detailed visual inspection, as specified in Part 2 of the Accomplishment Instructions of the alert service bulletin, thereafter at intervals not to exceed 1,500 landings.

Note 2: Accomplishment of the initial detailed visual inspection prior to August 12, 1997, in accordance with Jetstream Alert Service Bulletin J41-52-043, dated March 14, 1997, or Revision 1, dated April 11, 1997, is considered acceptable for compliance with the initial inspection required by paragraph (a) of this AD.

(1) If one cracked shear cleat is detected, and the crack is greater than 0.50 inches, prior to further flight, replace the cracked shear cleat with a new shear cleat in accordance with the alert service bulletin.

(2) If one cracked shear cleat is detected, and the crack is less than or equal to 0.50 inches, within 170 landings following accomplishment of the inspection required by this paragraph, replace the cracked shear cleat with a new shear cleat in accordance with the alert service bulletin.

(3) If more than one cracked shear cleat is detected, but no single crack is greater than 0.50 inches in length, prior to further flight, replace all cracked shear cleats with new shear cleats in accordance with the alert service bulletin.

(b) For airplanes on which all shear cleats have been replaced: Inspect as required by paragraph (a) of this AD, prior to the accumulation of 6,000 total landings on the highest time new shear cleat, or within 60 days after August 12, 1997, whichever occurs later. Repeat the detailed visual inspection thereafter at intervals not to exceed 1,500 landings.

New Requirements of this AD

(c) Modify the passenger door (Modification No. JM41576) at all four roller guide locations in accordance with Jetstream Service Bulletin J41-52-050, dated May 6, 1997, at the time specified in paragraph (c)(1) or (c)(2) of this AD, whichever occurs later. Accomplishment of this modification

constitutes terminating action for the requirements of this AD.

(1) Within 4,000 landings or 2 years after accomplishment of the initial inspection required by paragraph (a) of this AD. Or

(2) Within 6 months after the effective date of this AD.

(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, 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.

(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.

Issued in Renton, Washington, on October 21, 1998.

Darrell M. Pederson,

Acting Manager, Transport Airplane Directorate, Aircraft Certification Service.

[FR Doc. 98-28665 Filed 10-26-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-13-P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Aviation Administration

14 CFR Part 71

[Airspace Docket No. 98-AAL-23]

Proposed Revision of Class D Airspace; Anchorage, Elmendorf Air Force Base (AFB) Airport, AK; Proposed Establishment of Class E Airspace; Anchorage, Elmendorf AFB Airport, AK

AGENCY: Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), DOT.

ACTION: Notice of proposed rulemaking.

SUMMARY: This action proposes to revise Class D airspace operational times and establish Class E airspace at Elmendorf AFB, AK. The United States Air Force (USAF) has requested this action in response to a critical Air Traffic Control (ATC) controller shortage at Elmendorf AFB, AK. Adoption of this proposal would result in the provision of a part time operation of the Class D airspace and establishment of Class E airspace for Instrument Flight Rules (IFR) and Special Visual Flight Rules (VFR) operations at Elmendorf AFB, AK.

DATES: Comments must be received on or before December 11, 1998.

ADDRESSES: Send comments on the proposal in triplicate to: Manager, Operations Branch, AAL-530, Docket No. 98-AAL-23, Federal Aviation Administration, 222 West 7th Avenue, Box 14, Anchorage, AK 99513-7587.

The official docket may be examined in the Office of the Regional Counsel for the Alaskan Region at the same address.

An informal docket may also be examined during normal business hours in the Office of the Manager, Operations Branch, Air Traffic Division, at the address shown above and on the Internet at Alaskan Region's homepage at <http://www.alaska.faa.gov/at> or at address <http://162.58.28.41/at>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Robert van Haastert, Operations Branch, AAL-538, Federal Aviation Administration, 222 West 7th Avenue, Box 14, Anchorage, AK 99513-7587; telephone number (907) 271-5863; fax: (907) 271-2850; email: Robert.van.Haastert@faa.dot.gov. Internet address: <http://www.alaska.faa.gov/at> or at address <http://162.58.28.41/at>.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Comments Invited

Interested parties are invited to participate in this proposed rulemaking by submitting such written data, views, or arguments as they may desire. Comments that provide the factual basis supporting the views and suggestions presented are particularly helpful in developing reasoned regulatory decisions on the proposal. Comments are specifically invited on the overall regulatory, aeronautical, economic, environmental, and energy-related aspects of the proposal. Communications should identify the airspace docket number and be submitted in triplicate to the address listed above. Commenters wishing the FAA to acknowledge receipt of their comments on this notice must submit with those comments a self-addressed, stamped postcard on which the following statement is made: "Comments to Airspace Docket No. 98-AAL-23." The postcard will be date/time stamped and returned to the commenter. All communications received on or before the specified closing date for comments will be considered before taking action on the proposed rule. The proposal contained in this notice may be changed in light of comments received. All comments submitted will be available for examination in the Operations Branch, Air Traffic Division, Federal Aviation Administration, 222 West 7th Avenue, Box 14, Anchorage, AK, both before and

after the closing date for comments. A report summarizing each substantive public contact with FAA personnel concerned with this rulemaking will be filed in the docket.

Availability of NPRM's

Any person may obtain a copy of this Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) by submitting a request to the Operations Branch, AAL-530, Federal Aviation Administration, 222 West 7th Avenue, Box 14, Anchorage, AK 99513-7587. Communications must identify the notice number of this NPRM. Persons interested in being placed on a mailing list for future NPRM's should also request a copy of Advisory Circular No. 11-2A which describes the application procedure.

Internet users may reach the **Federal Register's** web page for access to recently published rulemaking documents at http://www.access.gpo.gov/su_docs/aces/aces140.html.

The Proposal

The FAA proposes to amend 14 CFR part 71 by revising the Class D airspace operational times at Elmendorf AFB, AK, due to a critical ATC controller shortage. Currently, the Class D airspace is operational 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The physical dimensions of the Class D airspace will not change. The following phraseology will be added to the end of the Class D airspace description: "This Class D airspace area is effective during the specific dates and times established in advance by a Notice to Airmen. The effective date and time will thereafter be continuously published in the Airport/Facility Directory." This action will allow part time operation of the Airport Traffic Control Tower (ATCT) at Elmendorf AFB, AK. The USAF has indicated the Elmendorf AFB tower will be closed between 2300L and 0700L. During this closure, the Class D airspace will convert to Class E airspace which this proposal is establishing for IFR and Special VFR operations. During these closure times, the USAF proposes to institute a recorded message on the Automatic Terminal Information Service (ATIS) to contact Anchorage Approach Control if ATC services are needed.

The area would be depicted on aeronautical charts for pilot reference. The coordinates for this airspace docket are based on North American Datum 83. The Class D airspace areas are published in paragraph 5000 and Class E airspace areas designated as a surface area are published in paragraph 6002 in FAA Order 7400.9F, *Airspace Designations*