

removing the entry for the El Cajon area of San Diego County.

Done in Washington, DC, this 9th day of June 1999.

Joan M. Arnoldi,

Acting Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

[FR Doc. 99-15108 Filed 6-14-99; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

9 CFR Part 93

[Docket No. 98-069-2]

Horses From Australia and New Zealand; Quarantine Requirements

AGENCY: Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, USDA.

ACTION: Final rule.

SUMMARY: We are amending the regulations regarding the importation of horses to exempt horses imported from Australia and New Zealand from testing for dourine and glanders during the quarantine period. This action is warranted because neither country has ever had a reported case of dourine, New Zealand has never had a reported case of glanders, and Australia has not had a reported case of glanders since 1891. It appears that horses imported from Australia and New Zealand will pose a negligible risk of introducing dourine and glanders into the United States.

EFFECTIVE DATE: June 30, 1999.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dr. Glen I. Garriss, Supervisory Staff Officer, Regionalization Evaluation Services Staff, National Center for Import and Export, VS, APHIS, 4700 River Road Unit 39, Riverdale, MD, 20737-1231; (301)734-8364.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

The regulations in 9 CFR part 93 (referred to below as the regulations) govern the importation into the United States of specified animals and animal products to prevent the introduction into the United States of various animal diseases, including dourine and glanders. Dourine and glanders are potentially fatal equine diseases that are not known to exist in the United States.

Under § 93.308(a)(3) of the regulations, horses imported from any part of the world must, in order to qualify for release from quarantine, test negative to official tests for dourine,

glanders, equine piroplasmiasis, equine infectious anemia, and any other tests and procedures that may be required by the Administrator of the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) to determine their freedom from communicable diseases.

On November 30, 1998, we published in the **Federal Register** (63 FR 65712-65714, Docket No. 98-069-1) a proposal to amend the regulations to exempt horses imported from Australia and New Zealand from testing for dourine and glanders during the quarantine period. This proposed action was based on information received from the Governments of Australia and New Zealand.

We solicited comments concerning our proposal for 60 days ending January 29, 1999. We did not receive any comments. Therefore, for the reasons given in the proposed rule, we are adopting the proposed rule as a final rule without change.

Effective Date

This is a substantive rule that relieves restrictions and, pursuant to the provisions of 5 U.S.C. 553, may be made effective less than 30 days after publication in the **Federal Register**. This rule relieves restrictions that require the testing of horses imported from Australia and New Zealand for dourine and glanders. Therefore, the Administrator of the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service has determined that this rule should be effective 15 days after the date of publication in the **Federal Register**.

Executive Order 12866 and Regulatory Flexibility Act

This rule has been reviewed under Executive Order 12866. The rule has been determined to be not significant for the purposes of Executive Order 12866 and, therefore, has not been reviewed by the Office of Management and Budget.

This final rule will exempt horses imported into the United States from Australia and New Zealand from the requirement for testing for dourine and glanders during the quarantine period. We believe that there is a negligible risk of horses imported from Australia and New Zealand introducing dourine and glanders into the United States.

U.S. importers of horses from Australia and New Zealand will be affected by this rule. These importers will no longer be required to have horses that are imported from Australia and New Zealand tested for dourine and glanders during the quarantine period. As a consequence, U.S. importers will save \$18 for the cost of both tests. However, horses imported from

Australia and New Zealand will still have to be tested for equine piroplasmiasis, equine infectious anemia, and undergo any other tests and procedures that may be required by APHIS to determine their freedom from communicable diseases.

According to the 1992 Census of Agriculture, the United States had a total population of at least 2,049,522 horses. The United States is a net exporter of horses. In 1997, the United States exported 56,953 horses valued at \$271 million, and imported 23,794 horses valued at \$134 million. However, only 45 of the horses were imported from Australia, and 130 of the horses were imported from New Zealand. The total number of horses imported into the United States from Australia and New Zealand is small due to the distances the horses must travel and the high transportation costs, which are reflected in the prices of the horses. For example, horses imported from Canada have an average price of \$1,490, while horses imported from Australia and New Zealand have an average price of \$20,682, and \$13,781, respectively. Given these relatively high prices and the rather small expected savings of \$18 per horse imported, we do not expect this action will result in an increase in the number of horses imported into the United States from Australia and New Zealand, nor do we expect this action will have a significant economic impact on U.S. importers of horses from Australia and New Zealand, regardless of their size.

Under these circumstances, the Administrator of the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service has determined that this action will not have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities.

Executive Order 12988

This rule has been reviewed under Executive Order 12988, Civil Justice Reform. This rule: (1) Preempts all State and local laws and regulations that are inconsistent with this rule; (2) has no retroactive effect; and (3) does not require administrative proceedings before parties may file suit in court challenging this rule.

Paperwork Reduction Act

This rule contains no information collection or recordkeeping requirements under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*).

List of Subjects in 9 CFR Part 93

Animal diseases, Imports, Livestock, Poultry and poultry products,

Quarantine, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements.

Accordingly, we are amending 9 CFR part 93 as follows:

PART 93—IMPORTATION OF CERTAIN ANIMALS, BIRDS, AND POULTRY, AND CERTAIN ANIMAL, BIRD, AND POULTRY PRODUCTS; REQUIREMENTS FOR MEANS OF CONVEYANCE AND SHIPPING CONTAINERS

1. The authority citation for part 93 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 7 U.S.C. 1622; 19 U.S.C. 1306; 21 U.S.C. 102–105, 111, 114a, 134a, 134b, 134c, 134d, 134f, 136, and 136a; 31 U.S.C. 9701; 7 CFR 2.22, 2.80, and 371.2(d).

2. In § 93.308, paragraph (a)(3) is revised to read as follows:

§ 93.308 Quarantine requirements.

(a) * * *

(3) To qualify for release from quarantine, all horses must test negative to official tests for dourine, glanders, equine piroplasmosis, and equine infectious anemia.¹⁴ However, horses imported from Australia and New Zealand are exempt from testing for dourine and glanders. In addition, all horses must undergo any other tests, inspections, disinfections, and precautionary treatments that may be required by the Administrator to determine their freedom from communicable diseases.

* * * * *

Done in Washington, DC, this 8th day of June 1999.

Joan M. Arnoldi,

Acting Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

[FR Doc. 99–15107 Filed 6–14–99; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Aviation Administration

14 CFR Part 39

[Docket No. 99–NE–37–AD; Amendment 39–11194; AD 99–13–01]

RIN 2120–AA64

Airworthiness Directives; International Aero Engines AG V2500–A1 and V2500–A5 Series Turbofan Engines

AGENCY: Federal Aviation Administration, DOT.

ACTION: Final rule; request for comments.

SUMMARY: This amendment adopts a new airworthiness directive (AD) that is applicable to certain International Aero Engines AG (IAE) V2500–A1 and V2500–A5 series turbofan engines. This action requires determining the need for a special borescope inspection of the high pressure turbine (HPT) stage 1 inner rotating airseal (TOBI ID seal) for oil wetting after an in-flight shutdown (IFSD). It also requires, if necessary, the tear down and inspection of HPT hardware. This amendment is prompted by reports of overheat damage to the HPT hardware caused by ignition of oil that leaked into the HPT from the No. 4 bearing compartment during an IFSD. The actions specified in this AD are intended to prevent failure of the HPT hardware due to ignition of oil trapped by the HPT TOBI ID seal, which could result in an uncontained engine failure and damage to the airplane.

DATES: Effective June 25, 1999.

The incorporation by reference of certain publications listed in the regulations is approved by the Director of the Federal Register as of June 25, 1999.

Comments for inclusion in the Rules Docket must be received on or before August 16, 1999.

ADDRESSES: Submit comments in triplicate to the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), New England Region, Office of the Regional Counsel, Attention: Rules Docket No. 99–NE–37–AD, 12 New England Executive Park, Burlington, MA 01803–5299. Comments may also be sent via the Internet using the following address: “9-ane-adcomment@faa.gov.” Comments sent via the Internet must contain the docket number in the subject line.

The service information referenced in this AD may be obtained from International Aero Engines, 400 Main Street, East Hartford, CT 06108; telephone (860) 565–5515; fax (860) 565–5510. This information may be examined at the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), New England

Region, Office of the Regional Counsel, 12 New England Executive Park, Burlington, MA; or at the Office of the Federal Register, 800 North Capitol Street, NW, suite 700, Washington, DC.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Diane Cook, Aerospace Engineer, Engine Certification Office, FAA, Engine and Propeller Directorate, 12 New England Executive Park, Burlington, MA 01803–5299; telephone (781) 238–7133, fax (781) 238–7199.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) has received reports of overheat damage to the high pressure turbine (HPT) hardware from two International Aero Engines AG (IAE) V2500–A1 series turbofan engines. The investigation of these engines revealed overheat damage to the HPT hardware was caused by ignition of oil that leaked from the No. 4 bearing compartment during an IFSD into the HPT and became trapped by the stage 1 inner rotating airseal (TOBI ID seal). The oil ignited during subsequent operation. The results of the investigation show that the probable cause of oil entering the TOBI ID seal is due to insufficient oil scavenging capability of the No. 4 bearing compartment during windmilling. The investigation has also concluded that V2500 engines that incorporate a redesigned scavenge tube and a redesigned or reworked TOBI ID seal have sufficient No. 4 bearing compartment oil scavenging capability and do not require any special actions following an IFSD. This condition, if not corrected, could result in failure of the HPT hardware due to ignition of oil trapped by the HPT TOBI ID seal, which could result in an uncontained engine failure and damage to the airplane.

The FAA has reviewed and approved the technical contents of IAE All Operator Wire (AOW) 1046, Issue 2, dated May 21, 1999, that describes procedures for determining which actions must be accomplished within five cycles after the IFSD. The actions are determined in AOW Attachments I, II, and III by the engine model, engine serial number, and whether the scavenge tube and TOBI ID seal have been replaced by new or reworked designs. The FAA has also reviewed and approved the technical contents of IAE service bulletins (SB's) V2500–ENG–72–0120, revision 2, dated October 30, 1992 or revision 3, dated May 14, 1999, that describe the requirements for replacing the No. 4 bearing scavenge tube assembly; and V2500–ENG–72–0190, revision 2, dated September 26, 1996, and V2500–ENG–72–0351, dated May

¹⁴ Because the official tests for dourine and glanders are performed only at the National Veterinary Services Laboratories in Ames, IA, the protocols for those tests have not been published and are, therefore, not available; however, copies of “Protocol for the Complement-Fixation Test for Equine Piroplasmosis” and “Protocol for the Immuno-Diffusion (Coggins) Test for Equine Infectious Anemia” may be obtained from the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Veterinary Services, National Center for Import and Export, 4700 River Road Unit 38, Riverdale, MD 20737–1231.