

Docket Number 2000–NM–95–AD.” The postcard will be date stamped and returned to the commenter.

### Regulatory Impact

The regulations adopted herein will not have a substantial direct effect 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, it is determined that this final rule does not have federalism implications under Executive Order 13132.

The FAA has determined that this regulation is an emergency regulation that must be issued immediately to correct an unsafe condition in aircraft, and that it is not a “significant regulatory action” under Executive Order 12866. It has been determined further that this action involves an emergency regulation under DOT Regulatory Policies and Procedures (44 FR 11034, February 26, 1979). If it is determined that this emergency regulation otherwise would be significant under DOT Regulatory Policies and Procedures, a final regulatory evaluation will be prepared and placed in the Rules Docket. A copy of it, if filed, may be obtained from the Rules Docket at the location provided under the caption **ADDRESSES**.

### List of Subjects in 14 CFR Part 39

Air transportation, Aircraft, Aviation safety, Incorporation by reference, Safety.

### Adoption of the Amendment

Accordingly, pursuant to the authority delegated to me by the Administrator, the Federal Aviation Administration amends 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 39–11288 (64 FR 48280, September 3, 1999), and by adding a new airworthiness directive (AD), amendment 39–11684, to read as follows:

#### 2000–07–28 Fokker Services B.V.:

Amendment 39–11684. Docket 2000–NM–95–AD. Supersedes AD 99–18–22, Amendment 39–11288.

**Applicability:** Model F27 series airplanes, certificated in any category, as listed in Fokker F27 Service Bulletin F27/61–40, Revision 1, dated August 1, 1997.

**Compliance:** Required as indicated, unless accomplished previously.

To ensure that flightcrews follow correct procedures that will maintain the high pressure cock (HPC) levers in a permanent lockout position to prevent consequent burnout of the engines during flight, accomplish the following:

#### AFM Revision: Normal and Abnormal Procedures Sections

(a) Within 6 months after October 8, 1999 (the effective date of AD 99–18–22, amendment 39–11288): Revise the Normal and Abnormal Procedures Sections, as applicable, of the FAA-approved Airplane Flight Manual (AFM) by incorporating Fokker F27 Service Bulletin F27/61–40, Revision 1, dated August 1, 1997; including Fokker F27 Manual Change Notification (MCNO) F27–001, dated June 30, 1997. [MCNO F27–001 specifies procedures for placing the HPC levers in a permanent lockout position (with the cruise lock withdrawal system disabled) during operation of the airplane.] This action may be accomplished by inserting a copy of MCNO F27–001 into the applicable sections of the AFM.

#### AFM Revision: Limitations and Emergency Procedures Sections

(b) Within 3 days after the effective date of this AD, revise the Limitations and Emergency Procedures Sections of the AFM by incorporating Fokker Manual Change Notification MCNO F27–008, dated March 1, 2000. This action may be accomplished by inserting a copy of MCNO F27–008 into the applicable sections of the AFM.

#### Alternative Methods of Compliance

(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 Operations Inspector, who may add comments and then send it to the Manager, International Branch, ANM–116.

**Note 1:** Information concerning the existence of approved alternative methods of compliance with this AD, if any, may be obtained from the International Branch, ANM–116.

#### Special Flight Permits

(d) Special flight permits may be issued in accordance with §§ 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.

### Incorporation by Reference

(e) The actions shall be done in accordance with Fokker F27 Service Bulletin F27/61–40, Revision 1, dated August 1, 1997, including Fokker F27 Manual Change Notification (MCNO) F27–001, dated June 30, 1997; and Fokker Manual Change Notification MCNO F27–008, dated March 1, 2000.

(1) The incorporation by reference of Fokker Manual Change Notification MCNO F27–008, dated March 1, 2000, is approved by the Director of the Federal Register, in accordance with 5 U.S.C. 552(a) and 1 CFR part 51.

(2) The incorporation by reference of Fokker F27 Service Bulletin F27/61–40, Revision 1, dated August 1, 1997, including Fokker F27 Manual Change Notification (MCNO) F27–001, dated June 30, 1997, was approved previously by the Director of the Federal Register as of October 8, 1999 (64 FR 48280, September 3, 1999).

(3) Copies may be obtained from Fokker Services B.V., P.O. Box 231, 2150 AE Nieuw-Vennep, the Netherlands. Copies may be inspected at the FAA, Transport Airplane Directorate, 1601 Lind Avenue, SW., Renton, Washington; or at the Office of the Federal Register, 800 North Capitol Street, NW., suite 700, Washington, DC.

(f) This amendment becomes effective on April 18, 2000.

Issued in Renton, Washington, on April 6, 2000.

**Donald L. Riggins,**

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

[FR Doc. 00–9110 Filed 4–17–00; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4910–13–U**

## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

### Federal Aviation Administration

#### 14 CFR Part 39

[Docket No. 98–SW–82–AD; Amendment 39–11681; AD 86–15–10 R2]

**RIN 2120–AA64**

**Airworthiness Directives; Eurocopter France Model AS–350B, BA, B1, B2, C, D, and D1, and AS–355E, F, F1, F2 and N Helicopters**

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

**ACTION:** Final rule.

**SUMMARY:** This amendment revises an existing airworthiness directive (AD), applicable to Eurocopter France Model AS-350B, BA, B1, B2, C, D, and D1, and AS-355E, F, F1, F2 and N helicopters, that currently requires repetitive inspections of the main rotor head components, the main gearbox (MGB) suspension bars, and the ground resonance prevention system components at intervals not to exceed 400 hours time-in-service (TIS). This amendment requires the same inspections, but at intervals not to exceed 500 hours TIS. This amendment is prompted by reports of confusion and unnecessary costs associated with the difference in the current 400 hours TIS inspection interval and the current manufacturer's master service recommendation of 500 hours TIS inspection interval. The actions specified by this AD are intended to eliminate confusion and unnecessary costs and to prevent ground resonance due to reduced structural stiffness, which could lead to failure of a main rotor head or MGB suspension component and subsequent loss of control of the helicopter.

**DATES:** Effective May 23, 2000.

The incorporation by reference of certain publications listed in the regulations is approved by the Director of the Federal Register as of May 23, 2000.

**ADDRESSES:** The service information referenced in this AD may be obtained from American Eurocopter Corporation, 2701 Forum Drive, Grand Prairie, Texas 75053-4005, telephone (972) 641-3460, fax (972) 641-3527. This information may be examined at the FAA, Office of the Regional Counsel, Southwest Region, 2601 Meacham Blvd., Room 663, Fort Worth, Texas; or at the Office of the Federal Register, 800 North Capitol Street, NW., suite 700, Washington, DC.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Jim Grigg, Aerospace Engineer, FAA, Rotorcraft Directorate, Rotorcraft Standards Staff, 2601 Meacham Blvd., Fort Worth, Texas 76137, telephone (817) 222-5490, fax (817) 222-5961.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** A proposal to amend part 39 of the Federal Aviation Regulations (14 CFR part 39) by revising AD 86-15-10, Amendment 39-5517 (52 FR 13233, April 22, 1987) and AD 86-15-10 R1, Amendment 39-6515 (55 FR 5833, February 20, 1990), which is applicable to Eurocopter France Model AS-350B, BA, B1, B2, C, D, and D1, and AS-355E, F, F1, F2 and N helicopters, was published in the

**Federal Register** on January 20, 2000 (65 FR 3165). The action proposed to require repetitive inspections of the main rotor head components, the MGB suspension bars, and the ground resonance prevention system components at intervals not to exceed 500 hours TIS.

Interested persons have been afforded an opportunity to participate in the making of this amendment. No comments were received on the proposal or the FAA's determination of the cost to the public. The FAA has determined that air safety and the public interest require the adoption of the rule as proposed.

The FAA has determined that this regulation is relieving in nature and imposes no additional costs or regulatory burden on any person.

The regulations adopted herein will not have a substantial direct effect 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, it is determined that this final rule does not have federalism implications under Executive Order 13132.

For the reasons discussed above, I certify that this action (1) is not a "significant regulatory action" under Executive Order 12866; (2) is not a "significant rule" under DOT Regulatory Policies and Procedures (44 FR 11034, February 26, 1979); and (3) 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 final evaluation has been prepared for this action and it is contained in the Rules Docket. A copy of it may be obtained from the Rules Docket at the location provided under the caption **ADDRESSES**.

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

Air transportation, Aircraft, Aviation safety, Incorporation by reference, Safety.

#### Adoption of the Amendment

Accordingly, pursuant to the authority delegated to me by the Administrator, the Federal Aviation Administration amends 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 39-5517 (52 FR 13233, April 22, 1987) and Amendment 39-6515 (55 FR 5833, February 20, 1990) and by adding a new airworthiness directive (AD), Amendment 39-11681, to read as follows:

#### AD 86-15-10 R2 Eurocopter France:

Amendment 39-11681. Docket No. 98-SW-82-AD. Revises AD 86-15-10, Amendment 39-5517 and AD 86-15-10 R1, Amendment 39-6515.

*Applicability:* Model AS-350B, BA, B1, B2, C, D, and D1, and AS-355E, F, F1, F2 helicopters, certificated in any category.

**Note 1:** This AD applies to each helicopter 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 helicopters 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 (f) 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 ground resonance due to reduced structural stiffness, which could lead to failure of a main rotor head or main gearbox (MBG) suspension component and subsequent loss of control of the helicopter, accomplish the following:

(a) Within 10 hours time-in-service (TIS):

(1) For Model AS-350B, BA, B1, B2, C, D, and D1 helicopters, inspect the main rotor head components, the MGB suspension bars (struts), and the landing gear ground resonance prevention components (aft spring blades and hydraulic shock absorbers) in accordance with paragraph CC.3 of *Aerospatiale Service Bulletin (SB) No. 01.17a* (not dated).

(2) For Model AS-355E, F, F1, F2 helicopters, inspect the main rotor head components, the MGB suspension bars (struts), and the landing gear ground resonance prevention components (aft spring blades and hydraulic shock absorbers) in accordance with paragraph CC.3 of SB No. 01.14a (not dated).

(b) Rework or replace damaged components in accordance with SB No. 01.17a or SB No. 01.14a, as applicable.

(c) Repeat the inspections and rework required by paragraphs (a) and (b) of this AD at intervals not to exceed 500 hours TIS.

(d) If the helicopter is subjected to a hard landing or to high surface winds, when parked without effective tiedown straps installed, repeat the inspections required by paragraph (a) of this AD for the main rotor head star arms and the MGB suspension bars before further flight.

(e) In the event of a landing which exhibits abnormal self-sustained dynamic vibrations (ground resonance type vibrations), repeat all the inspections contained in paragraph (a) of this AD.

(f) 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, FAA, Regulations Group, Rotorcraft Directorate. Operators shall submit their requests through an FAA Principal Maintenance Inspector, who may concur or comment and then send it to the Manager, Regulations Group.

**Note 2:** Information concerning the existence of approved alternative methods of compliance with this AD, if any, may be obtained from the Regulations Group.

(g) 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 helicopter to a location where the requirements of this AD can be accomplished.

(h) The inspections and modification shall be done in accordance with *Aerospatiale Service Bulletin No. 01.17a* or *No. 01.14a* (neither is dated). This incorporation by reference was approved by the Director of the **Federal Register** in accordance with 5 U.S.C. 552(a) and 1 CFR part 51. Copies may be obtained from American Eurocopter Corporation, 2701 Forum Drive, Grand Prairie, Texas 75053-4005, telephone (972) 641-3460, fax (972) 641-3527. Copies may be inspected at the FAA, Office of the Regional Counsel, Southwest Region, 2601 Meacham Blvd., Room 663, Fort Worth, Texas; or at the Office of the **Federal Register**, 800 North Capitol Street, NW., suite 700, Washington, DC.

(i) This amendment becomes effective on May 23, 2000.

Issued in Fort Worth, Texas, on April 4, 2000.

**Henry A. Armstrong,**  
Manager, Rotorcraft Directorate, Aircraft Certification Service.

[FR Doc. 00-9109 Filed 4-17-00; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

### Federal Aviation Administration

#### 14 CFR Part 71

[Airspace Docket No. 00-ACE-9]

#### Amendment to Class E Airspace; Orange City, IA

**AGENCY:** Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), DOT.

**ACTION:** Direct final rule; request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** This action amends Class E airspace area at Orange City Municipal Airport, Orange City, IA. A review of the Class E airspace area for Orange City Municipal Airport indicates it does not comply with the criteria for 700 feet Above Ground Level (AGL) airspace required for diverse departures as specified in FAA Order 7400.2D. The Class E airspace has been enlarged to conform to the criteria of FAA Order 7400.2D.

The intended effect of this rule is to provide additional controlled Class E airspace for aircraft operating under Instrument Flight Rules (IFR) and comply with the criteria of FAA Order 7400.2D.

**DATES:** *Effective date:* 0901 UTC, August 10, 2000.

Comments for inclusion in the Rules Docket must be received on or before May 22, 2000.

**ADDRESSES:** Send comments regarding the rule in triplicate to: Manager, Airspace Branch, Air Traffic Division, ACE-520, DOT Regional Headquarters Building, Federal Aviation Administration, Docket Number 00-ACE-9, 901 Locust, Kansas City, MO 64106.

The official docket may be examined in the Office of the Regional Counsel for the Central Region at the same address between 9:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays.

An informal docket may also be examined during normal business hours in the Air Traffic Division at the same address listed above.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Kathy Randolph, Air Traffic Division, Airspace Branch, ACE-520C, DOT Regional Headquarters Building, Federal Aviation Administration, 901 Locust, Kansas City, MO 64106; telephone: (816) 329-2525.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** This amendment to 14 CFR 71 revises the Class E airspace at Orange City, IA. A review of the Class E airspace for Orange City Municipal Airport, IA, indicates it does not meet the criteria for 700 feet AGL airspace required for diverse departures as specified in FAA Order 7400.2D. The criteria in FAA Order 7400.2D for an aircraft to reach 1200 feet AGL is based on a standard climb gradient of 200 feet per mile plus the distance from the Airport Reference Point (ARP) to the end of the outermost runway. Any fractional part of a mile is

converted to the next higher tenth of a mile. The amendment at Orange City Municipal Airport, IA, will provide additional controlled airspace for aircraft operating under IFR, and comply with the criteria of FAA Order 7400.2D. The area will be depicted on appropriate aeronautical charts. Class E airspace areas extending upward from 700 feet or more above the surface of the earth are published in paragraph 6005 of FAA Order 7400.9G, dated September 10, 1999, and effective September 16, 1999, which is incorporated by reference in 14 CFR 71.1. The Class E airspace designation listed in this document will be published subsequently in the Order.

#### The Direct Final Rule Procedure

The FAA anticipates that this regulation will not result in adverse or negative comment and, therefore, is issuing it as a direct final rule. Previous actions of this nature have not been controversial and have not resulted in adverse comments or objections. The amendment will enhance safety for all flight operations by designating an area where VFR pilots may anticipate the presence of IFR aircraft at lower altitudes, especially during inclement weather conditions. A greater degree of safety is achieved by depicting the area on aeronautical charts. Unless a written adverse or negative comment, or a written notice of intent to submit an adverse or negative comment is received within the comment period, the regulation will become effective on the date specified above. After the close of the comment period, the FAA will publish a document in the **Federal Register** indicating that no adverse or negative comments were received and confirming the date on which the final rule will become effective. If the FAA does receive, within the comment period, an adverse or negative comment, or written notice of intent to submit such a comment, a document withdrawing the direct final rule will be published in the **Federal Register** and a notice of proposed rulemaking may be published with a new comment period.

#### Comments Invited

Although this action is in the form of a final rule and was not preceded by a