

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

[Docket No. 2000–NM–35–AD]

RIN 2120–AA64

Airworthiness Directives; McDonnell Douglas Model MD–11 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 McDonnell Douglas Model MD–11 series airplanes. This proposal would require an inspection of the electrical wires routed above the door actuation cables for minimum .50-inch clearance with the door in the open and closed position, damage due to chafing or electrical arcing, or damaged door actuation cables; and corrective actions, if necessary. This action is necessary to prevent damaged electrical wires or damaged door actuation cables due to chafing by the cables during operation of the forward passenger door, which could result in electrical arcing and consequent smoke in the area above the forward passenger door. This action is intended to address the identified unsafe condition.

DATES: Comments must be received by September 11, 2000.

ADDRESSES: Submit comments in triplicate to the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), Transport Airplane Directorate, ANM–114, Attention: Rules Docket No. 2000–NM–35–AD, 1601 Lind Avenue, SW., Renton, Washington 98055–4056. Comments may be inspected at this location between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays. Comments may be submitted via fax to (425) 227–1232. Comments may also be sent via the Internet using the following address: 9-anm-nprmcomment@faa.gov. Comments sent via fax or the Internet must contain “Docket No. 2000–NM–35–AD” in the subject line and need not be submitted in triplicate. Comments sent via the Internet as attached electronic files must be formatted in Microsoft Word 97 for Windows or ASCII text.

The service information referenced in the proposed rule may be obtained from Boeing Commercial Aircraft Group, Long Beach Division, 3855 Lakewood Boulevard, Long Beach, California

90846, Attention: Technical Publications Business Administration, Dept. C1–L51 (2–60). This information may be examined at the FAA, Transport Airplane Directorate, 1601 Lind Avenue, SW., Renton, Washington; or at the FAA, Transport Airplane Directorate, Los Angeles Aircraft Certification Office, 3960 Paramount Boulevard, Lakewood, California.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Brett Portwood, Aerospace Engineer, Systems and Equipment Branch, ANM–130L, FAA, Transport Airplane Directorate, Los Angeles Aircraft Certification Office, 3960 Paramount Boulevard, Lakewood, California 90712–4137; telephone (562) 627–5350; fax (562) 627–5210.

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.

Submit comments using the following format:

- Organize comments issue-by-issue. For example, discuss a request to change the compliance time and a request to change the service bulletin reference as two separate issues.
- For each issue, state what specific change to the proposed AD is being requested.
- Include justification (*e.g.*, reasons or data) for each request.

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 2000–NM–35–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. 2000–NM–35–AD, 1601 Lind Avenue, SW., Renton, Washington 98055–4056.

Discussion

As part of its practice of re-examining all aspects of the service experience of a particular aircraft whenever an accident occurs, the FAA has become aware of an incident of an electrical wire chafed by an actuation cable of the forward passenger door when the door was in the full open position. This incident occurred on a McDonnell Douglas Model MD–11 series airplane. Investigation revealed that the existing routing of the electrical wires of the forward passenger door could cause the electrical wires to be chafed by the door actuation cables during operation of the door. Investigation also revealed that the electrical wires were not routed properly during manufacturing of the airplane. This condition, if not corrected, could result in damaged electrical wires or damaged door actuation cables, which could result in electrical arcing and consequent smoke in the area above the forward passenger door.

This incident is not considered to be related to an accident that occurred off the coast of Nova Scotia involving a McDonnell Douglas Model MD–11 series airplane. The cause of that accident is still under investigation.

Other Related Rulemaking

The FAA, in conjunction with Boeing and operators of Model MD–11 series airplanes, is continuing to review all aspects of the service history of those airplanes to identify potential unsafe conditions and to take appropriate corrective actions. This airworthiness directive (AD) is one of a series of actions identified during that process. The process is continuing and the FAA may consider additional rulemaking actions as further results of the review become available.

Explanation of Relevant Service Information

The FAA has reviewed and approved McDonnell Douglas Alert Service Bulletin MD11–24A182, dated April 3, 2000, which describes procedures for a one-time general visual inspection of the electrical wires routed above the door actuation cables for minimum .50-inch clearance with the door in the open and closed position, damage due to chafing or electrical arcing, or damaged door actuation cables; and corrective

actions, if necessary. The corrective actions include loosening the wire clamps as necessary; repositioning electrical wires to provide minimum clearance; tightening wire clamps; replacing damaged electrical wires with new wires or repairing damaged wires; and replacing damaged door actuation cables with new cables.

Accomplishment of the actions specified in the service bulletin is intended to adequately address the identified unsafe condition.

Explanation of Requirements of Proposed Rule

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 accomplishment of the actions specified in the service bulletin described previously.

Cost Impact

There are approximately 187 Model MD-11 series airplanes of the affected design in the worldwide fleet. The FAA estimates that 64 airplanes of U.S. registry would be affected by this proposed AD, that it would take approximately 2 work hours per airplane to accomplish the proposed inspection, and that the average labor rate is \$60 per work hour. Based on these figures, the cost impact of the inspection proposed by this AD on U.S. operators is estimated to be \$7,680, or \$120 per airplane.

The cost impact figure discussed above is 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 proposed AD were not adopted. The cost impact figures discussed in AD rulemaking actions represent only the time necessary to perform the specific actions actually required by the AD. These figures typically do not include incidental costs, such as the time required to gain access and close up, planning time, or time necessitated by other administrative actions.

Regulatory Impact

The regulations proposed herein would 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 proposal would not have federalism implications under Executive Order 13132.

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:

McDonnell Douglas: Docket 2000-NM-35-AD.

Applicability: Model MD-11 series airplanes, as listed in McDonnell Douglas Alert Service Bulletin MD11-24A182, dated April 3, 2000; 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 prevent damaged electrical wires or damaged door actuation cables due to chafing by the cables during operation of the forward passenger door, which could result in electrical arcing and consequent smoke in the area above the forward passenger door, accomplish the following:

Inspection

(a) Except as provided by paragraph (b) of this AD, within 6 months after the effective date of this AD, perform a one-time general visual inspection of the electrical wires routed above the door actuation cables for minimum .50-inch clearance with the door in the open and closed position, damage due to chafing or electrical arcing, or damaged door actuation cables, in accordance with McDonnell Douglas Alert Service Bulletin MD11-24A182, dated April 3, 2000.

Note 2: For the purposes of this AD, a general visual inspection is defined as "A visual examination of an interior or exterior area, installation, or assembly to detect obvious damage, failure, or irregularity. This level of inspection is made under normally available lighting conditions such as daylight, hangar lighting, flashlight, or drop-light, and may require removal or opening of access panels or doors. Stands, ladders, or platforms may be required to gain proximity to the area being checked."

Condition 1 (Minimum Clearance and No Chafed Electrical Wiring or Damaged Door Actuation Cables)

(1) If minimum .50-inch clearance exists between the electrical wires and door actuation cables with the door in the open and closed positions, and if no chafed electrical wiring or damaged door actuation cable is detected, no further action is required by this AD.

Condition 2 (Less Than Minimum Clearance, No Chafed Electrical Wiring or Damaged Door Actuation Cables)

(2) If less than .50-inch clearance exists between the electrical wires and door actuation cables with the door in the open and closed positions, and if no chafed electrical wiring or damaged door actuation cable is detected, before further flight, loosen wire clamps as necessary, reposition electrical wires to provide minimum clearance, and tighten wire clamps, in accordance with the service bulletin.

Condition 3 (Less Than Minimum Clearance, Chafed Electrical Wiring or Damaged Door Actuation Cables)

(3) If less than .50-inch clearance exists between the electrical wires and door actuation cables with the door in the open and closed positions, and if any chafed electrical wiring or damaged door actuation cable is detected, before further flight, replace damaged electrical wires with new wires or repair damaged wires, loosen wire clamps as necessary, reposition electrical wires to provide minimum clearance, tighten wire clamps, and replace damaged door actuation cables with new cables, in accordance with the service bulletin.

Exception to Inspection Required in Paragraph (a) of This AD

(b) For Model MD-11 series airplanes, the inspection required by paragraph (a) of this AD is only applicable to functioning doors. For Model MD-11F series airplanes or Model MD-11 series airplanes converted to a freighter configuration, equipped with one or more disabled non-functioning doors that do

not have door actuating cables, the inspection is NOT required for those disabled doors.

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, Los Angeles Aircraft Certification Office (ACO), 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, Los Angeles ACO.

Note 3: Information concerning the existence of approved alternative methods of compliance with this AD, if any, may be obtained from the Los Angeles ACO.

Special Flight Permit

(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.

Issued in Renton, Washington, on July 14, 2000.

John J. Hickey,

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

[FR Doc. 00-18399 Filed 7-26-00; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

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ACTION: Notice of proposed rulemaking (NPRM).

SUMMARY: This document proposes the adoption of a new airworthiness directive (AD) that is applicable to certain McDonnell Douglas Model MD-11 series airplanes. This proposal would require a one-time detailed visual inspection to detect discrepancies of all electrical wiring installations in various areas of the airplane; and corrective actions, if necessary. This action is necessary to prevent electrical arcing and/or heat damaged wires due to improper wire installations during manufacture and/or maintenance of the airplane, and consequent fire and smoke in various areas of the airplane. This action is intended to address the identified unsafe condition.

DATES: Comments must be received by September 11, 2000.

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Discussion

As part of its practice of re-examining all aspects of the service experience of a particular aircraft whenever an accident occurs, the FAA has become aware of several incidents of damaged wire insulation and chafed wires in various areas on McDonnell Douglas Model MD-11 series airplanes. Investigation revealed that the cause of such damage and chafing may be attributed to improper wire installations during manufacture and/or maintenance of the airplane. This condition, if not corrected, could result in electrical arcing and/or heat damaged wires, and consequent fire and smoke in the various areas of the airplane.

These incidents are not considered to be related to an accident that occurred off the coast of Nova Scotia involving a McDonnell Douglas Model MD-11 series airplane. The cause of that accident is still under investigation.

Other Related Rulemaking

The FAA, in conjunction with Boeing and operators of Model MD-11 series airplanes, is continuing to review all