

(b) *Who must comply with this AD?*

Anyone who wishes to operate any of the above airplanes on the U.S. Register.

(c) *What problem does this AD address?*

The actions of this AD are intended to prevent failure of the engine oil pressure switch diaphragm, which results in loss of

engine oil through the vent hole. This could lead to partial or complete loss of engine power.

(d) *What must I do to address this problem?*: Within the next 25 hours time-in-service after the effective date of this AD, inspect the oil pressure switch to determine

if it is part-number (P/N) 77041 (or FAA-approved equivalent part number) or P/N 83278 (or FAA-approved equivalent part number). Then accomplish the following, as applicable:

If	Then
P/N 77041 (or FAA-approved equivalent part number) oil pressure switch is installed,	1. Prior to further flight after inspection, replace this switch with a P/N 83278 (or FAA-approved equivalent part number) oil pressure switch; and 2. As of the effective date of this AD, do not install a P/N 77041 (or FAA-approved equivalent part number) oil pressure switch on any affected airplane.
P/N 83278 (or FAA-approved equivalent part number) oil pressure switch is installed,	No further action is required by this AD except that, as of the effective date of this AD, do not install a P/N 77041 (or FAA-approved equivalent part number) oil pressure switch on any affected airplane.

(e) *What procedures must be used to accomplish the actions of this AD?*: You must use the procedures in Cessna Service Bulletin SB00-79-01, dated January 31, 2000, to accomplish this action.

(f) *Can I comply with this AD in any other way?*: Yes.

(1) You may use an alternative method of compliance or adjust the compliance time if:

(i) Your alternative method of compliance provides an equivalent level of safety; and

(ii) The Manager, Wichita Aircraft Certification Office (ACO), approves your alternative. Submit your request through an FAA Principal Maintenance Inspector, who may add comments and then send it to the Manager, Wichita ACO.

(2) 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 (f)(1) 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 you have not eliminated the unsafe condition, specific actions you propose to address it.

(g) *Where can I get information about any already-approved alternative methods of compliance?*: Contact Paul Pendleton, Aerospace Engineer, Wichita Aircraft Certification Office, FAA, 1801 Airport Road, Mid-Continent Airport, Wichita, Kansas 67209; telephone: (316) 946-4143; facsimile: (316) 946-4407.

(h) *What if I need to fly the airplane to another location to comply with this AD?*: The FAA can issue a special flight permit under sections 21.197 and 21.199 of the Federal Aviation Regulations (14 CFR 21.197 and 21.199) to operate your airplane to a location where you can accomplish the requirements of this AD.

(i) *Are any service bulletins incorporated into this AD by reference?*: Yes. Actions required by this AD must be done in accordance with Cessna Service Bulletin SB00-79-01, dated January 31, 2000. The

Director of the Federal Register approved this incorporation by reference under 5 U.S.C. 552(a) and 1 CFR part 51. You can get copies from the Cessna Aircraft Company, Product Support, P.O. Box 7706, Wichita, Kansas 67277. You can look at copies at the FAA, Central Region, Office of the Regional Counsel, 901 Locust, Room 506, Kansas City, Missouri, or at the Office of the Federal Register, 800 North Capitol Street, NW, suite 700, Washington, DC.

(j) *When does this amendment become effective?*: This amendment becomes effective on March 11, 2000.

Issued in Kansas City, Missouri, on February 11, 2000.

**Michael K. Dahl,**

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

[FR Doc. 00-3794 Filed 2-18-00; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4910-13-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

### Federal Aviation Administration

#### 14 CFR Part 39

[Docket No. 99-NM-139-AD; Amendment 39-11585; AD 2000-04-03]

RIN 2120-AA64

#### Airworthiness Directives; McDonnell Douglas Models DC-3 and DC-4 Series Airplanes

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

**ACTION:** Final rule.

**SUMMARY:** This amendment adopts a new airworthiness directive (AD), applicable to certain McDonnell Douglas Models DC-3 and DC-4 series airplanes that requires an inspection to determine the type of airframe pneumatic deicing boots installed. This amendment also requires revising the Airplane Flight Manual (AFM) to include requirements for activation of

the pneumatic deicing boots for those airplanes equipped with "modern" boots. This amendment is prompted by reports of inflight incidents and an accident that occurred in icing conditions where the airframe pneumatic deicing boots were not activated. The actions specified by this AD are intended to ensure that flightcrews activate the pneumatic wing and tail deicing boots at the first signs of ice accumulation. This action will prevent reduced controllability of the aircraft due to adverse aerodynamic effects of ice adhering to the airplane prior to the first deicing cycle.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** Effective March 28, 2000.

**ADDRESSES:** Information pertaining to this amendment may be examined at the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), Transport Airplane Directorate, Rules Docket, 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:

Albert Lam, 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) 627-5346; fax (562) 627-5210.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

A proposal to amend part 39 of the Federal Aviation Regulations (14 CFR part 39) to include an airworthiness directive (AD) that is applicable to certain McDonnell Douglas Models DC-3 and DC-4 series airplanes was published as a supplemental notice of proposed rulemaking (NPRM) in the **Federal Register** on November 18, 1999 (64 FR 62993). That action proposed to require

an inspection to determine the type of airframe pneumatic deicing boots installed. That action also proposed to require revising the Airplane Flight Manual (AFM) to include requirements for activation of the pneumatic deicing boots for those airplanes equipped with "modern" boots.

### Comments

Interested persons have been afforded an opportunity to participate in the making of this amendment. No comments were submitted in response to the proposal or the FAA's determination of the cost to the public.

### Addition of Note 2

The FAA has added a new Note 2 that provides an explanation of the term "visual inspection" as specified in paragraph (a) of the final rule.

### Conclusion

After careful review of the available data, the FAA has determined that air safety and the public interest require the adoption of the rule with the changes previously described. The FAA has determined that these changes will neither increase the economic burden on any operator nor increase the scope of the AD.

### Cost Impact

The FAA estimates that 166 airplanes of U.S. registry will be affected by this AD.

The FAA estimates that it will take approximately 2 work hours per airplane to accomplish the required actions, at the average labor rate of \$60 per work hour. Based on these figures, the cost impact of this AD on U.S. operators is estimated to be \$19,920, or \$120 per airplane.

The cost impact figure discussed above is based on assumptions that no operator has yet accomplished any of the 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 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, 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 adding the following new airworthiness directive:

#### 2000-04-03 McDonnell Douglas:

Amendment 39-11585. Docket 99-NM-139-AD.

**Applicability:** Models DC-3 and DC-4 series airplanes equipped with pneumatic deicing boots, certificated in any category.

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

To ensure that flightcrews activate the wing and tail pneumatic deicing boots at the first signs of ice accumulation on the airplane, accomplish the following:

**Note 1:** For the purposes of this AD, the following definitions of "older" and "modern" apply:

"Modern" pneumatic boot systems may be characterized by short segmented, small diameter tubes, which are operated at relatively high pressures [18–23 pounds per square inch (psi)] by excess bleed air that is provided by turbine engines. "Older" pneumatic boot systems may be characterized by long, uninterrupted, large diameter tubes, which were operated at low pressures by engine driven pneumatic pumps whose pressure varied with engine revolutions per minute (rpm). This low pressure coupled with long and large diameter tubes caused early de-ice systems to have very lengthy inflation and deflation cycles and dwell times. (Dwell time is the period of time that the boot remains fully expanded following the completion of the inflation cycle until the beginning of the deflation cycle.)

(a) Within 10 days after the effective date of this AD: Perform a visual inspection to determine if the type of pneumatic deicing boots installed is either "older" or "modern" boots.

**Note 2:** For the purposes of this AD, a detailed visual inspection is defined as: "An intensive visual examination of a specific structural area, system, installation, or assembly to detect damage, failure, or irregularity. Available lighting is normally supplemented with a direct source of good lighting at intensity deemed appropriate by the inspector. Inspection aids such as mirror, magnifying lenses, etc., may be used. Surface cleaning and elaborate access procedures may be required."

(1) For those airplanes equipped with "older" pneumatic deicing boots, no further action is required by this AD.

(2) For those airplanes equipped with "modern" pneumatic deicing boots, within 10 days after the inspection required by paragraph (a) of this AD: Revise the Limitations Section of the FAA-approved Airplane Flight Manual (AFM) to include the following requirements for activation of the ice protection systems. This may be accomplished by inserting a copy of this AD in the AFM.

• Except for certain phases of flight where the AFM specifies that deicing boots should not be used (e.g., take-off, final approach, and landing), compliance with the following is required.

• Wing and Tail Leading Edge Pneumatic Deicing Boot System, if installed, must be activated:

—At the first sign of ice formation anywhere on the aircraft, or upon annunciation from an ice detector system, whichever occurs first; and

—The system must either be continued to be operated in the automatic cycling mode, if available; or the system must be manually cycled as needed to minimize the ice accretions on the airframe.

• The wing and tail leading edge pneumatic deicing boot system may be deactivated only after leaving icing conditions and after the airplane is determined to be clear of ice."

### Alternative Methods of Compliance

(b) 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, Transport Airplane Directorate. The request shall be forwarded through an appropriate FAA Operations 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 Permits

(c) 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.

(d) This amendment becomes effective on March 28, 2000.

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

**Donald L. Riggin,**

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

[FR Doc. 00-3885 Filed 2-18-00; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4910-13-U**

## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

### Federal Aviation Administration

#### 14 CFR Part 39

[Docket No. 2000-CE-08-AD; Amendment 39-11594; AD 2000-04-12]

RIN 2120-AA64

#### **Airworthiness Directives; Cameron Balloons Ltd. (Thunder & Colt) Titanium Propane Cylinders, Part Number (P/N) CB2380 and P/N CB2383**

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

**ACTION:** Final rule; request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** This amendment adopts a new airworthiness directive (AD) that applies to all aircraft (specifically balloons) that incorporate certain Cameron Balloons Ltd. (Thunder and Colt) titanium propane cylinders, part number (P/N) CB2380 and P/N CB2383. This AD requires that you remove from service any of the affected titanium propane cylinders and replace each affected cylinder with an FAA-approved airworthy propane cylinder. This AD is the result of mandatory continuing airworthiness information (MCAI) issued by the airworthiness authority for the United Kingdom. The actions specified by this AD are intended to prevent titanium propane cylinders from cracking and releasing propane gas vapor while the balloon is in service. This could result in a propane explosion and fire.

**DATES:** Effective March 13, 2000.

The FAA must receive any comments on this rule on or before April 17, 2000.

**ADDRESSES:** Submit comments in triplicate to the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), Central Region, Office of the Regional Counsel, Attention: Rules Docket No. 2000-CE-08-AD, 901 Locust, Room 506, Kansas City, Missouri 64106.

You may get the service information referenced in this AD from Cameron Balloons Ltd./Thunder and Colt, St. Johns Street, Bedminster, Bristol; BS3 4NH; telephone: +44 (0)117 9637216; facsimile: +44 (0)177 966168; or

Cameron Balloons, P.O. Box 3672, Ann Arbor, Michigan 46106; telephone: (734) 426-5525; facsimile: (734) 426-5026. You may examine this information at the FAA, Central Region, Office of the Regional Counsel, Attention: Rules Docket No. 2000-CE-08-AD, 901 Locust, Room 506, Kansas City, Missouri 64106; or at the Office of the Federal Register, 800 North Capitol Street, NW, suite 700, Washington, DC.

#### **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Roger Chudy, Aerospace Engineer, FAA, Small Airplane Directorate, 901 Locust, Room 301, Kansas City, Missouri 64106; telephone: (816) 329-4140; facsimile: (816) 329-4090.

#### **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

##### **Discussion**

*What events have caused this AD?:* The Civil Aviation Authority (CAA), which is the airworthiness authority for the United Kingdom, recently notified the FAA that an unsafe condition may exist on aircraft (specifically balloons) that incorporate certain Cameron Balloons Ltd. (Thunder and Colt) titanium propane cylinders, part number (P/N) CB2380 and P/N CB2383.

The CAA advises that fatigue may cause the longitudinal weld on these titanium propane cylinders to crack. This would cause the propane fuel to leak from these cylinders.

*What are the consequences if the condition is not corrected?:* This condition, if not corrected, could lead to a propane explosion and fire.

##### **Relevant Service Information**

*Is there service information that applies to this subject?:* Yes. The following service bulletins address this issue:

—Cameron Balloons Ltd. and Thunder & Colt has issued Alert Service Bulletin SB8, dated January 28, 2000; and

—Cameron Balloons Alert Service Bulletin 5, dated February 2, 2000.

*What are the provisions of these service bulletins?:* The applicability and provisions of these service bulletins are as follows:

Cameron Balloons Ltd. and Thunder & Colt Alert Service Bulletin SB8: This service information applies to any aircraft (specifically balloons) that incorporate one of the affected titanium propane cylinders, and specifies the following:

- Cylinders must not be refilled.
- Cylinders must be emptied of all fuel and depressurized within 7 days.
- Cylinders must be returned to Cameron Balloons factory after emptying.

Cameron Balloons Alert Service Bulletin 5: This service information applies to any aircraft (specifically balloons) that incorporate one of the affected titanium propane cylinders, and specifies the following:

- Tanks must not be refilled after February 29, 2000.
- Tanks must be emptied of all fuel and depressurized by February 29, 2000.
- Tanks must be returned, empty and depressurized, to the Cameron Balloons U.S. factory no later than February 29, 2000.

##### **The Foreign Airworthiness Authority's Action**

*What action did the CAA take?:* The CAA did the following in order to assure the continued airworthiness of aircraft (specifically balloons) that incorporate these titanium propane cylinders in the United Kingdom:

- Classified the actions specified in Cameron Balloons Ltd. and Thunder & Colt Alert Service Bulletin SB8, dated January 28, 2000, as mandatory; and
- Issued United Kingdom AD 001-01-2000, dated January 31, 2000.

*Was this in accordance with the bilateral airworthiness agreement?:* Yes. Pursuant to the applicable bilateral airworthiness agreement, the CAA has kept the FAA informed of the situation described above.

##### **The FAA's Determination and an Explanation of the Provisions of the AD**

*What has the FAA decided?:* After examining the circumstances and reviewing all available information related to the incidents described above including that received from the CAA, the FAA has determined that:

- An unsafe condition exists or could develop on aircraft (specifically balloons) that incorporate certain Cameron Balloons Ltd. (Thunder and Colt) titanium propane cylinders, P/N CB2380 and P/N CB2383;
- The affected titanium propane cylinders should be removed from service; and
- AD action should be taken to prevent titanium propane cylinders from cracking and releasing propane gas vapor while the balloon is in service. This could result in a propane explosion and fire.

*What does this AD require?:* This AD requires that you remove from service any of the affected titanium propane cylinders and replace each affected cylinder with an FAA-approved airworthy propane cylinder.