

to Smiths Aerospace Service Bulletin 371-01, dated February 20, 2002, as an additional source of service information for accomplishment of the actions. Dornier Service Bulletin SB-328J-26-161 refers to Smiths Aerospace Service Bulletin 370-01, dated February 20, 2002, as an additional source of service information for accomplishment of the actions. The LBA classified the Dornier service bulletins as mandatory and issued German airworthiness directives 2002-251, dated September 5, 2002; and 2002-335, dated October 17, 2002, to ensure the continued airworthiness of these airplanes in Germany.

FAA's Conclusions

This airplane model is manufactured in Germany 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 LBA has kept the FAA informed of the situation described above. The FAA has examined the findings of the LBA, reviewed all available information, and determined that AD action is 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 require accomplishment of the actions specified in the service bulletins described previously.

Cost Impact

The FAA estimates that 19 airplanes of U.S. registry would be affected by this proposed AD, that it would take approximately 1 work hour per airplane to accomplish the proposed replacement of the overhead fire extinguisher control panel, and that the average labor rate is \$65 per work hour. Required parts would be provided by the parts manufacturer at no cost to operators. Based on these figures, the cost impact of the proposed AD on U.S. operators is estimated to be \$1,235, or \$65 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 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:

Fairchild Dornier GmbH (Formerly Dornier Luftfahrt GmbH): Docket 2002-NM-267-AD.

Applicability: Model 328-300 series airplanes as listed in Dornier Service Bulletins SB-328J-26-156 and SB-328J-26-161, both dated February 26, 2002; certificated in any category.

Compliance: Required as indicated, unless accomplished previously.

To prevent the inadvertent release of the fire switch pushbutton on the overhead fire extinguisher control panel with the switch guard closed, which could result in an uncommanded engine shutdown, accomplish the following:

Replacement of Overhead Fire Extinguisher Control Panel and Follow-on Actions

(a) Within 16 months after the effective date of this AD: Replace the overhead fire extinguisher control panels with new, improved fire extinguisher control panels, by accomplishing all of the actions specified in Paragraphs 2.A, 2.B(1) through (4) inclusive, and 2.C, of the Accomplishment Instructions of Dornier Service Bulletin SB-328J-26-156 or SB-328J-26-161, both dated February 26, 2002; as applicable.

Note 1: Dornier Service Bulletins SB-328J-26-156 and SB-328J-26-161 refer to Smiths Aerospace Service Bulletins 371-01 and 370-01, respectively, both dated February 20, 2002, as additional sources of service information for accomplishment of the required actions.

Parts Installation

(b) As of the effective date of this AD, no person may install fire extinguisher control panels manufactured by Smiths Aerospace having part numbers 715740-1 or 715355-1 on any airplane.

Alternative Methods of Compliance

(c) In accordance with 14 CFR 39.19, the Manager, International Branch, ANM-116, FAA, Transport Airplane Directorate, is authorized to approve alternative methods of compliance for this AD.

Note 2: The subject of this AD is addressed in German airworthiness directives 2002-251, dated September 5, 2002; and 2002-335, dated October 17, 2002.

Issued in Renton, Washington, on November 10, 2003.

Kalene C. Yanamura,

Acting Manager, Transport Airplane Directorate, Aircraft Certification Service.

[FR Doc. 03-28610 Filed 11-14-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-13-P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Aviation Administration

14 CFR Part 39

[Docket No. 2002-NM-153-AD]

RIN 2120-AA64

Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Model A319 and A320 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 Airbus Model A319 and A320 series airplanes. This proposal would require a modification and replacement affecting the center and wing fuel tanks. All affected airplanes would require modification of the wiring of the fuel quantity indicating probes of the center and wing fuel tanks. Some affected airplanes would also require replacement of the high-level sensors of the additional center fuel tank with new, improved sensors. These actions are necessary to prevent overheating of the fuel probes due to a short circuit, and fuel leakage due to inadequate expansion of the area within the additional center fuel tank. Such conditions could result in fuel vapors or fuel contacting an ignition source and/or consequent fire/explosion in the center fuel tank. This action is intended to address the identified unsafe condition.

DATES: Comments must be received by December 17, 2003.

ADDRESSES: Submit comments in triplicate to the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), Transport Airplane Directorate, ANM-114, Attention: Rules Docket No. 2002-NM-153-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. 2002-NM-153-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 or 2000 or ASCII text.

The service information referenced in the proposed rule may be obtained from Airbus Industrie, 1 Rond Point Maurice Bellonte, 31707 Blagnac Cedex, France. This information may be examined at the FAA, Transport Airplane Directorate, 1601 Lind Avenue, SW., Renton, Washington.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dan Rodina, Aerospace Engineer, International Branch, ANM-116, FAA, Transport Airplane Directorate, 1601 Lind Avenue, SW., Renton, Washington 98055-4056; telephone (425) 227-2125; 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 action 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 action must submit a self-addressed, stamped postcard on which the following statement is made: "Comments to Docket Number 2002-NM-153-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. 2002-NM-153-AD, 1601 Lind Avenue, SW., Renton, Washington 98055-4056.

Discussion

The Direction Générale de l'Aviation Civile (DGAC), which is the airworthiness authority for France, notified the FAA that an unsafe condition may exist on certain Airbus Model A319 and A320 series airplanes. The DGAC advises that investigations done by the manufacturer have revealed a potential risk of a 28-volt direct current short circuit, external to the fuel

tank, of fuel quantity indicating (FQI) wiring installed in harnesses that contain wiring for other power systems. This short circuit could lead to overheating of the fuel probes and risk of an explosion. In addition, testing of the additional center fuel tank revealed that compliance with Joint Aviation Regulation 25.0989, which requires a 2% expansion of the center fuel tank, could not be attained due to sagging of the bladder. To correct this deficiency a new, improved high-level sensor has been developed that is longer and senses the fuel at a lower level, which reduces the fuel volume and allows for the 2% expansion. Overheating of the fuel probes due to a short circuit, and fuel leakage due to inadequate expansion of the area within the additional center fuel tank, could result in fuel vapors or fuel contacting an ignition source, and/or consequent fire/explosion in the center fuel tank.

Explanation of Relevant Service Information

Airbus has issued Service Bulletin A320-28-1087, Revision 02, dated June 10, 2003, which describes procedures for modification of the wiring of the FQI probes of the center and wing fuel tanks. The modification includes the following:

- Installation of fused adaptors for the FQI probes of the center tanks.
- Installation of fused plug connectors for the FQI probes of the wing tanks.
- Installation of fused adapters between the external wiring harness and the in-tank wiring of the connectors on the center fuel tank wall.
- Operational testing of the refuel/defuel system, a leak test, a test of the pressure switch of the fuel transfer pump, and an operational test of the individual motor of the transfer valve, and repair if necessary.

Airbus also has issued Service Bulletin A320-28-1086, Revision 01, dated October 23, 2002, applicable to certain Airbus Model A319-115 and -133 series airplanes. The service bulletin describes procedures for replacement of the existing high-level sensors with new, improved sensors. The replacement includes installation of new, improved sensors, bonding leads, and a placard. Procedures are provided for operational tests of the additional center fuel tanks following the installation, and repair if necessary.

The DGAC classified these service bulletins as mandatory and issued French airworthiness directive 2002-220(B) R1, dated October 15, 2003, to ensure the continued airworthiness of these airplanes in France.

FAA's Conclusions

These airplane models are manufactured in France and are 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 DGAC has kept us informed of the situation described above. We have examined the findings of the DGAC, reviewed all available information, and determined that AD action is 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 require accomplishment of the actions specified in the applicable service bulletin described previously.

Cost Impact

The FAA estimates that 468 airplanes of U.S. registry would be affected by this proposed AD.

It would take between 10 and 22 work hours per airplane to accomplish the proposed modification, at an average labor rate of \$65 per work hour. Required parts would cost between \$670 and \$5750 per airplane. Based on these figures, the cost impact of the modification proposed by this AD is estimated to be between \$617,760 and \$3,360,240, or between \$1,320 and \$7,180 per airplane.

Should an operator be required to do the replacement of the high-level sensors, it would take about 80 work hours, at an average labor rate of \$65 per work hour. Required parts would be free of charge. Based on these figures, the cost impact of the replacement proposed by this AD is estimated to be \$5,200 per airplane.

The cost impact figures discussed above are 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 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:

Airbus: Docket 2002–NM–153–AD.

Applicability: Model A319 and A320 series airplanes; certificated in any category; as listed in Airbus Service Bulletin A320–28–1087, Revision 02, dated June 10, 2003; and Airbus Service Bulletin A320–28–1086, Revision 01, dated October 23, 2002.

Compliance: Required as indicated, unless accomplished previously.

To prevent overheating of the fuel probes due to a short circuit, and fuel leakage due to inadequate expansion of the area within the additional center fuel tank, which could result in fuel vapors or fuel contacting an ignition source and/or consequent fire/explosion in the center fuel tank, accomplish the following:

Modification/Replacement

(a) Within 4,000 flight hours or 30 months after the effective date of this AD, whichever is first: Do the applicable actions specified in paragraphs (a)(1) and (a)(2) of this AD. Accomplishment of the modification before the effective date of this AD per Airbus Service Bulletin A320–28–1087, dated July 17, 2001; or Revision 01, dated March 3, 2003; or accomplishment of the replacement before the effective date of this AD per Airbus Service Bulletin A320–28–1086, dated November 30, 1999; as applicable; is considered acceptable for compliance with the corresponding action specified in paragraph (a)(1) or (a)(2) of this AD.

(1) For airplanes defined in Airbus Service Bulletin A320–28–1087, Revision 02, dated June 10, 2003: Modify the wiring of the fuel quantity indicating probes of the center and wing fuel tanks by doing all the actions specified in paragraphs 3.A. through 3.D. (including operational testing and any applicable repair) of the Accomplishment Instructions of the service bulletin. Do the actions per the service bulletin. Any applicable repair must be done before further flight.

(2) For airplanes defined in Airbus Service Bulletin A320–28–1086, Revision 01, dated October 23, 2002: Prior to or concurrent with accomplishment of paragraph (a)(1) of this AD, replace the high-level sensors of the additional center fuel tanks by doing all the actions specified in paragraphs 3.A through 3.D. (including operational testing and any applicable repair) of the Accomplishment Instructions of the service bulletin. Do the actions per the service bulletin. Any applicable repair must be done before further flight.

Alternative Methods of Compliance

(b) In accordance with 14 CFR 39.19, the Manager, International Branch, ANM–116, FAA, Transport Airplane Directorate, is authorized to approve alternative methods of compliance for this AD.

Note 1: The subject of this AD is addressed in French airworthiness directive 2002–220(B) R1, dated October 15, 2003.

Issued in Renton, Washington, on November 10, 2003.

Kalene C. Yanamura,

Acting Manager, Transport Airplane Directorate, Aircraft Certification Service.

[FR Doc. 03–28609 Filed 11–14–03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910–13–P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Aviation Administration

14 CFR Part 39

[Docket No. 2002–NM–120–AD]

RIN 2120–AA64

Airworthiness Directives; Bombardier Model DHC–8–401 and –402 Airplanes

AGENCY: Federal Aviation Administration, DOT.