

component history card or equivalent record and assign a life limit of 5,000 hours TIS by following the Accomplishment Instructions, Part IV, of ASB 407-01-48.

(ii) Within 25 hours TIS or 30 days, whichever occurs first, prepare the tailboom for daily visual checks and recurring inspections and inspect the tailboom for a crack by following the Accomplishment Instructions, Part II, Steps 1.a) through 1.f), of Bell ASB 407-07-80, dated August 27, 2007 (ASB 407-07-80).

(iii) Thereafter, before the first flight of each day, clean the area on the tailboom where paint has been removed at the upper and lower attachment support areas of the horizontal stabilizer and visually check that area of the tailboom for a crack.

(iv) Within 100 hours TIS and thereafter at intervals not to exceed 100 hours TIS, using a 10X or higher power magnifying glass, inspect each tailboom for a loose rivet, a crack, skin corrosion, or any other damage, by following the Accomplishment Instructions, Part IV, Steps 1 through 6, of ASB 407-07-80, except this AD does not require you to contact Bell. If there is corrosion within an allowable tolerance, repair each area of corrosion.

(3) If there is a crack, before further flight, replace the tailboom.

(4) If there is no crack, make sure both of the inspection area surfaces are dry and protect each reworked area with a thin coat of clear coating.

(5) The actions required by paragraphs (f)(1)(i)(A) and (f)(2)(iii) of this AD may be performed by the owner/operator (pilot) holding at least a private pilot certificate and must be entered into the aircraft records showing compliance with this AD in accordance with 14 CFR 43.9 (a)(1) through (4) and 91.417(a)(2)(v). This record must be maintained as required by 14 CFR 91.417, 121.380, or 135.439.

(g) Alternative Methods of Compliance (AMOCs)

(1) The Manager, Safety Management Group, FAA, may approve AMOCs for this AD. Send your proposal to: Sharon Miles, Aviation Safety Engineer, Regulations and Policy Group, Rotorcraft Directorate, FAA, 2601 Meacham Blvd., Fort Worth, Texas 76137; telephone (817) 222-5110; email sharon.y.miles@faa.gov.

(2) For operations conducted under a 14 CFR part 119 operating certificate or under 14 CFR part 91, subpart K, we suggest that you notify your principal inspector, or lacking a principal inspector, the manager of the local flight standards district office or certificate holding district office before operating any aircraft complying with this AD through an AMOC.

(h) Additional Information

(1) Bell Alert Service Bulletin No. 407-99-26, Revision B, dated June 14, 2001, which is not incorporated by reference, contains additional information about the subject of this AD. For this service information, contact Bell Helicopter Textron Canada, 12,800 Rue de l'Avenir, Mirabel, Quebec J7J1R4, telephone (450) 437 2862 or (800) 363-8023, fax (450) 433-0272 or at <http://www.bell>

customer.com/files/. You may review service information at the FAA, Office of the Regional Counsel, Southwest Region, 2601 Meacham Blvd., Room 663, Fort Worth, Texas 76137.

(2) The subject of this AD is addressed in Transport Canada Civil Aviation (TCCA) AD No. CF-2008-04, dated January 11, 2008. You may view the TCCA AD on the Internet at <http://www.regulations.gov> in Docket No. FAA-2013-0574.

(i) Subject

Joint Aircraft Service Component (JASC) Code is 5300: Rotorcraft Tail Boom, and 5302: Middle Section.

(j) Material Incorporated by Reference

(1) The Director of the Federal Register approved the incorporation by reference (IBR) of the service information listed in this paragraph under 5 U.S.C. 552(a) and 1 CFR part 51.

(2) You must use this service information as applicable to do the actions required by this AD, unless the AD specifies otherwise.

(3) The following service information was approved for IBR on July 28, 2014.

(i) Bell Helicopter Textron Alert Service Bulletin (ASB) No. 407-01-48, Revision C, dated August 27, 2007.

(ii) Bell Helicopter Textron ASB No. 407-07-80, dated August 27, 2007.

(4) The following service information was approved for IBR on April 17, 2003 (68 FR 11967, March 13, 2003).

(i) Bell Helicopter Textron ASB No. 407-99-26, Revision C, dated February 28, 2002.

(ii) Bell Helicopter Textron Technical Bulletin No. 407-01-33, dated August 29, 2001.

(5) For Bell service information identified in this AD, contact Bell Helicopter Textron Canada, 12,800 Rue de l'Avenir, Mirabel, Quebec J7J1R4, telephone (450) 437-2862 or (800) 363-8023, fax (450) 433-0272 or at <http://www.bellcustomer.com/files/>.

(6) You may view this service information at FAA, Office of the Regional Counsel, Southwest Region, 2601 Meacham Blvd., Room 663, Fort Worth, Texas 76137. For information on the availability of this material at the FAA, call (817) 222-5110.

(7) You may view this service information that is incorporated by reference at the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA). For information on the availability of this material at NARA, call (202) 741-6030, or go to: <http://www.archives.gov/federal-register/cfr/ibr-locations.html>.

Issued in Fort Worth, Texas, on May 21, 2014.

Lance T. Gant,

Acting Directorate Manager, Rotorcraft Directorate, Aircraft Certification Service.

[FR Doc. 2014-13263 Filed 6-20-14; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-13-P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Aviation Administration

14 CFR Part 39

[Docket No. FAA-2013-1056; Directorate Identifier 2013-CE-046-AD; Amendment 39-17849; AD 2014-10-02]

RIN 2120-AA64

Airworthiness Directives; Dornier Luftfahrt GmbH Airplanes

AGENCY: Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), Department of Transportation (DOT).

ACTION: Final rule.

SUMMARY: We are superseding airworthiness directive (AD) 2006-11-19 for Dornier Luftfahrt GmbH Model Dornier 228-100, 228-101, 228-200, 228-201, 228-202, and 228-212 airplanes. This AD results from mandatory continuing airworthiness information (MCAI) issued by an aviation authority of another country to identify and correct an unsafe condition on an aviation product. The MCAI describes the unsafe condition as chafed or damaged wiring on the flight deck overhead panels (5VE and 6VE). We are issuing this AD to require actions to address the unsafe condition on these products.

DATES: This AD is effective July 28, 2014.

The Director of the Federal Register approved the incorporation by reference of certain publications listed in the AD as of July 28, 2014.

ADDRESSES: You may examine the AD docket on the Internet at <http://www.regulations.gov> by searching for and locating Docket No. FAA-2013-1056; or in person at the Docket Management Facility, U.S. Department of Transportation, Docket Operations, M-30, West Building Ground Floor, Room W12-140, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE., Washington, DC 20590.

For service information identified in this AD, contact RUAG Aerospace Services GmbH, Dornier 228 Customer Support, P.O. Box 1253, 82231 Wessling, Germany; telephone: +49 (0) 8153-30 2220; fax: +49 (0) 8153-30 4258; email: custsupport.dornier228@ruag.com; Internet: <http://www.ruag.com/en/Aviation/Aviation-Home>. You may view this referenced service information at the FAA, Small Airplane Directorate, 901 Locust, Kansas City, Missouri 64106. For information on the availability of this material at the FAA, call (816) 329-4148.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Karl Schletzbaum, Aerospace Engineer, FAA, Small Airplane Directorate, 901 Locust, Room 301, Kansas City, Missouri 64106; telephone: (816) 329-4146; fax: (816) 329-4090; email: karl.schletzbaum@faa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Discussion

We issued a notice of proposed rulemaking (NPRM) to amend 14 CFR part 39 to add an AD that would apply to Dornier Luftfahrt GmbH Model DORNIER LUFTFAHRT GmbH Models Dornier 228-100, 228-101, 228-200, 228-201, 228-202, and 228-212 airplanes. The NPRM was published in the **Federal Register** on December 23, 2013 (78 FR 77380), and proposed to supersede AD 2006-11-19, Amendment 39-14624 (71 FR 32268; June 5, 2006).

Since we issued AD 2006-11-19, Amendment 39-14624 (71 FR 32268; June 5, 2006), DORNIER LUFTFAHRT GmbH changed the compliance time between repetitive inspections and incorporated those inspections into the Time Limits/Maintenance Checks Manual (TLMCM).

The NPRM proposed to correct an unsafe condition for the specified products and was based on mandatory continuing airworthiness information (MCAI) originated by an aviation authority of another country. The MCAI states that:

RUAG Aerospace Services GmbH issued Time Limits/Maintenance Checks Manual (TLMCM) TM-TLMCM-090305-ALL, Revision 5 dated 20 March 2011 respectively TM-TLMCM-228-00002-150610, Revision 1 dated 03 March 2011, listing component life limits and describing maintenance instructions for the Dornier 228 type design. The Document TM-TLMCM-228-00002-150610 is valid for airplane SN 8300 and up and other airplane SN modified according to CN-228-247. The instructions contained in that manual have been identified as mandatory actions for continued airworthiness.

In 2005, chafed wiring was found on 5VE Panel due to lost adhesive of the TY-RAP holder and subsequent vibration of the cable harness.

To address this potential unsafe condition, RUAG issued All Operators Telefax (AOT) No. AOT-228-24-028 and Temporary Revision (TR) 05-05 of the TLMCM introducing repetitive of the cockpit overhead panels 5VE and 6VE and, depending on findings, corrective actions(s). Subsequently, LBA issued AD D-2005-438 (EASA approval 2005-6430) to require those actions.

Since that AD was issued, the instructions of TR 05-05 have been incorporated into TM-TLMCM-090305-ALL, Revision 5 dated 20 March 2011 respectively into TM-TLMCM-228-00002-150610, Revision 1 dated 03 March 2011.

For the reasons described above, this AD retains the requirements of EASA AD D-2005-438, which is superseded, and requires the implementation of the life limits and maintenance actions as specified in the TLMCM (TM-TLMCM-090305-ALL respectively TM-TLMCM-228-00002-150610) for zone 321 overhead panels 5VE/6VE.

The MCAI can be found in the AD docket on the Internet at: <http://www.regulations.gov/#!documentDetail;D=FAA-2013-1056-0002>.

After the NPRM was issued, we identified that we inadvertently omitted the calendar time compliance for the inspections of the wiring in the flight deck overhead panels. We issued a supplemental notice of proposed rulemaking (SNPRM) to propose adding the calendar time compliance for the inspections of the wiring in the flight deck overhead panels. The SNPRM was published in the **Federal Register** on March 4, 2014 (79 FR 12131).

Comments

We gave the public the opportunity to participate in developing this AD. We received no comments on the SNPRM (79 FR 12131, March 4, 2014) or on the determination of the cost to the public.

Conclusion

We reviewed the relevant data and determined that air safety and the public interest require adopting the AD as proposed except for minor editorial changes. We have determined that these minor changes:

- Are consistent with the intent that was proposed in the SNPRM (79 FR 12131, March 4, 2014) for correcting the unsafe condition; and
- Do not add any additional burden upon the public than was already proposed in the SNPRM (79 FR 12131, March 4, 2014).

Costs of Compliance

We estimate that this AD will affect 17 products of U.S. registry. We also estimate that it will take about 2 work-hours per product to comply with the basic requirements of this AD. The average labor rate is \$85 per work-hour.

Based on these figures, we estimate the cost of the proposed AD on U.S. operators to be \$2,890 or \$170 per product.

In addition, we estimate that any necessary follow-on actions would take about 3 work-hours and require parts costing \$1,000, for a cost of \$1,255 per product. We have no way of determining the number of products that may need these actions.

Authority for This Rulemaking

Title 49 of the United States Code specifies the FAA's authority to issue rules on aviation safety. Subtitle I, section 106, describes the authority of the FAA Administrator. "Subtitle VII: Aviation Programs," describes in more detail the scope of the Agency's authority.

We are issuing this rulemaking under the authority described in "Subtitle VII, Part A, Subpart III, Section 44701: General requirements." Under that section, Congress charges the FAA with promoting safe flight of civil aircraft in air commerce by prescribing regulations for practices, methods, and procedures the Administrator finds necessary for safety in air commerce. This regulation is within the scope of that authority because it addresses an unsafe condition that is likely to exist or develop on products identified in this rulemaking action.

Regulatory Findings

We determined that this AD will not have federalism implications under Executive Order 13132. This AD 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.

For the reasons discussed above, I certify this AD:

- (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),
- (3) Will not affect intrastate aviation in Alaska, and
- (4) 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.

Examining the AD Docket

You may examine the AD docket on the Internet at <http://www.regulations.gov> by searching for and locating Docket No. FAA-2013-1056; or in person at the Docket Management Facility between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays. The AD docket contains the NPRM/SNPRM, the regulatory evaluation, any comments received, and other information. The street address for the Docket Office (telephone (800) 647-5527) is in the **ADDRESSES** section. Comments will be available in the AD docket shortly after receipt.

List of Subjects in 14 CFR Part 39

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

Adoption of the Amendment

Accordingly, under the authority delegated to me by the Administrator, the FAA amends 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. The FAA amends § 39.13 by removing Amendment 39–14624 (71 FR 32268; June 5, 2006) and adding the following new AD:

2014–10–02 Dornier Luftfahrt GmbH:

Amendment 39–17849; Docket No. FAA–2013–1056; Directorate Identifier 2013–CE–046–AD.

(a) Effective Date

This airworthiness directive (AD) becomes effective July 28, 2014.

(b) Affected ADs

This AD supersedes AD 2006–11–19, Amendment 39–14624 (71 FR 32268; June 5, 2006).

(c) Applicability

This AD applies to Dornier Luftfahrt GmbH Dornier Models 228–100, 228–101, 228–200, 228–201, 228–202, and 228–212 airplanes, all serial numbers, certificated in any category.

(d) Subject

Air Transport Association of America (ATA) Code 5: Time Limits.

(e) Reason

This AD was prompted by mandatory continuing airworthiness information (MCAI) originated by an aviation authority of another country to identify and correct an unsafe condition on an aviation product. The MCAI describes the unsafe condition as chafed or damaged wiring on the flight deck overhead panels (5VE and 6VE). We are issuing this AD to prevent chafing and damage to the wiring in the flight deck overhead panels, which could result in short-circuiting of related wiring and possibly lead to electrical failure of affected systems and potential fire in the flight deck.

(f) Actions and Compliance

Unless already done, do the following actions in paragraphs (f)(1) through (f)(3) of this AD:

(1) Within the next 600 hours time-in-service (TIS) after July 28, 2014 (the effective date of this AD) or within the next 12 months after July 28, 2014 (the effective date of this AD), whichever occurs first, and repetitively thereafter at intervals not to exceed 600 hours TIS or 12 months, whichever occurs first,

inspect the wiring in the flight deck overhead panels, 5VE and 6VE, for chafing, damage, and/or incorrect installation (wire tie attachment holders). For the inspection, refer to:

(i) Zone 321 on page 5, dated May 1, 2006, in section 05–22–10, Zonal Inspection Program, in Chapter 05, Time Limits/Maintenance Checks—General, in RUAG Aerospace Services GmbH Dornier 228 Time Limits/Maintenance Checks Manual (TLMCM), TM–TLMCM–090305–ALL, Revision 5, March 20, 2011;

(ii) Zone 321 on page 5, dated May 1, 2006, in section 05–26–10, Low Utilization Zonal Inspection Program, in Chapter 05, Time Limits/Maintenance Checks—General, in RUAG Aerospace Services GmbH Dornier 228 Time Limits/Maintenance Checks Manual (TLMCM), TM–TLMCM–090305–ALL, Revision 5, March 20, 2011;

(iii) Pages 1 through 10, Overhead Panel 5VE—Description, dated November 25, 2009, in subject 31–10–07, of Chapter 31, Indicating/Recording Systems, in RUAG Aerospace Services GmbH Dornier 228 Airplane Maintenance Manual, TM–AMM–228–00014–080184, Revision 3, October 30, 2012;

(iv) Pages 201 through 208, Overhead Panel 5VE—Maintenance Practices, dated November 25, 2009, in subject 31–10–07, of Chapter 31, Indicating/Recording Systems, in RUAG Aerospace Services GmbH Dornier 228 Airplane Maintenance Manual, TM–AMM–228–00014–080184, Revision 3, October 30, 2012;

(v) Pages 1 and 2, Overhead Panel 6VE—Description, in subject 31–10–08, dated November 25, 2009, of Chapter 31, Indicating/Recording Systems, in RUAG Aerospace Services GmbH Dornier 228 Airplane Maintenance Manual, TM–AMM–228–00014–080184, Revision 3, October 30, 2012;

(vi) Pages 201 through 204, Overhead Panel 6VE—Maintenance Practices, in subject 31–10–08, dated November 25, 2009, of Chapter 31, Indicating/Recording Systems, in RUAG Aerospace Services GmbH Dornier 228 Airplane Maintenance Manual, TM–AMM–228–00014–080184, Revision 3, October 30, 2012.

(2) If any chafed or damaged wires are found during any inspection required in paragraph (f)(1) of this AD, before further flight, repair the affected wire(s) and assure correct installation of the wiring in the flight deck overhead panels by reattaching or replacing the wire tie attachment holders and securing any loose wires to the wire tie attachment holders with plastic wire ties following:

(i) Pages 1 through 10, Overhead Panel 5VE—Description, dated November 25, 2009, in subject 31–10–07, of Chapter 31, Indicating/Recording Systems, in RUAG Aerospace Services GmbH Dornier 228 Airplane Maintenance Manual, TM–AMM–228–00014–080184, Revision 3, October 30, 2012;

(ii) Pages 201 through 208, Overhead Panel 5VE—Maintenance Practices, dated November 25, 2009, in subject 31–10–07, of Chapter 31, Indicating/Recording Systems, in RUAG Aerospace Services GmbH Dornier

228 Airplane Maintenance Manual, TM–AMM–228–00014–080184, Revision 3, October 30, 2012;

(iii) Pages 1 and 2, Overhead Panel 6VE—Description, in subject 31–10–08, dated November 25, 2009, of Chapter 31, Indicating/Recording Systems, in RUAG Aerospace Services GmbH Dornier 228 Airplane Maintenance Manual, TM–AMM–228–00014–080184, Revision 3, October 30, 2012;

(iv) Pages 201 through 204, Overhead Panel 6VE—Maintenance Practices, in subject 31–10–08, dated November 25, 2009, of Chapter 31, Indicating/Recording Systems, in RUAG Aerospace Services GmbH Dornier 228 Airplane Maintenance Manual, TM–AMM–228–00014–080184, Revision 3, October 30, 2012.

(3) To comply with the actions of this AD, you may insert a copy of this AD or a copy of the required actions of this AD into the instructions for continued airworthiness section of the FAA-approved maintenance program (e.g., maintenance manual). This action may be done by an owner/operator (pilot) holding at least a private pilot certificate and must be entered into the airplane records showing compliance with this AD in accordance with 14 CFR 43.9 (a)(1)(4) and 14 CFR 91.417(a)(2)(v). The record must be maintained as required by 14 CFR 91.173 or 135.439.

(g) Other FAA AD Provisions

The following provisions also apply to this AD:

(1) *Alternative Methods of Compliance (AMOCs):* The Manager, Standards Office, FAA, has the authority to approve AMOCs for this AD, if requested using the procedures found in 14 CFR 39.19. Send information to ATTN: Karl Schletzbaum, Aerospace Engineer, FAA, Small Airplane Directorate, 901 Locust, Room 301, Kansas City, Missouri 64106; telephone: (816) 329–4146; fax: (816) 329–4090; email: karl.schletzbaum@faa.gov. Before using any approved AMOC on any airplane to which the AMOC applies, notify your appropriate principal inspector (PI) in the FAA Flight Standards District Office (FSDO), or lacking a PI, your local FSDO.

(2) *Airworthy Product:* For any requirement in this AD to obtain corrective actions from a manufacturer or other source, use these actions if they are FAA-approved. Corrective actions are considered FAA-approved if they are approved by the State of Design Authority (or their delegated agent). You are required to assure the product is airworthy before it is returned to service.

(h) Related Information

Refer to MCAI European Aviation Safety Agency (EASA) AD No.: 2013–0244, dated October 4, 2013, for related information. You may examine the MCAI on the Internet at <http://www.regulations.gov/> #!documentDetail;D=FAA-2013-1056-0002.

(i) Material Incorporated by Reference

(1) The Director of the Federal Register approved the incorporation by reference (IBR) of the service information listed in this paragraph under 5 U.S.C. 552(a) and 1 CFR part 51.

(2) You must use this service information as applicable to do the actions required by this AD, unless the AD specifies otherwise.

(i) Chapter 05, Time Limits/Maintenance Checks—General, in RUAG Aerospace Services GmbH Dornier 228 Time Limits/Maintenance Checks Manual (TLMCM), TM-TLMCM-090305-ALL, Revision 5, March 20, 2011:

(A) Page 5, in section 05-22-10, Zonal Inspection Program, dated May 1, 2006;

(B) Page 5, in section 05-26-10, Low Utilization Zonal Inspection Program, dated May 1, 2006.

(ii) Chapter 31, Indicating/Recording Systems, in RUAG Aerospace Services GmbH Dornier 228 Airplane Maintenance Manual, TM-AMM-228-00014-080184, Revision 3, October 30, 2012:

(A) Pages 1 through 10, Overhead Panel 5VE—Description, in subject 31-10-07, dated November 25, 2009;

(B) Pages 201 through 208, Overhead Panel 5VE—Maintenance Practices, in subject 31-10-07, dated November 25, 2009;

(C) Pages 1 and 2, Overhead Panel 6VE—Description, in subject 31-10-08, dated November 25, 2009;

(D) Pages 201 through 204, Overhead Panel 6VE—Maintenance Practices, in subject 31-10-08, dated November 25, 2009.

(3) For service information identified in this AD, contact RUAG Aerospace Services GmbH, Dornier 228 Customer Support, P.O. Box 1253, 82231 Wessling, Germany; telephone: +49 (0) 8153-30 2220; fax: +49 (0) 8153-30 4258; email: custsupport.dornier228@ruag.com; Internet: http://www.ruag.com/en/Aviation/Aviation_Home.

(4) You may view this referenced service information at the FAA, Small Airplane Directorate, 901 Locust, Kansas City, Missouri 64106. For information on the availability of this material at the FAA, call (816) 329-4148.

(5) You may view this service information that is incorporated by reference at the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA). For information on the availability of this material at NARA, call 202-741-6030, or go to: <http://www.archives.gov/federal-register/cfr/ibr-locations.html>.

Issued in Kansas City, Missouri, on June 13, 2014.

Earl Lawrence,

Manager, Small Airplane Directorate, Aircraft Certification Service.

[FR Doc. 2014-14336 Filed 6-20-14; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-13-P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Aviation Administration

14 CFR Part 93

[Docket No.: FAA-2010-0302; Amdt. No. 93-98]

RIN 2120-AK46

The Extension of the Expiration Date of the New York North Shore Helicopter Route

AGENCY: Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), DOT.

ACTION: Final rule.

SUMMARY: The action amends the expiration date of the final rule requiring pilots flying civil helicopters under Visual Flight Rules to use the New York North Shore Helicopter Route when operating along the north shore of Long Island, New York. The current rule expires on August 6, 2014. The FAA finds it necessary to extend this rule for an additional two years to preserve the current operating environment in order to determine whether the mandatory use of this route should be made permanent. The FAA will conduct notice and comment rulemaking on the permanent use of this route. A limited extension of the current rule provides needed time to conduct the appropriate analysis to assess the rule's impact and proper rulemaking procedures.

DATES: This final rule is effective August 6, 2014, through August 6, 2016.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For technical questions concerning this action, contact David Maddox, Airspace Regulation and ATC Procedures Group, AJV-113, Federal Aviation Administration, 800 Independence Avenue SW., Washington, DC 20591; telephone 202-267- 8783; email david.maddox@faa.gov.

For legal questions concerning this action, contact Lorelei Peter, International Law, Legislation and Regulations Division, AGC-200, Office of the Chief Counsel, Federal Aviation Administration, 800 Independence Avenue SW., Washington, DC 20591; telephone 202-267-3073; email Lorelei.Peter@faa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Authority for This Rulemaking

The FAA's authority to issue rules on aviation safety is found in Title 49 of the United States Code. Subtitle I, Section 106 describes the authority of the FAA Administrator. Subtitle VII, Aviation Programs, describes in more detail the scope of the agency's authority.

The FAA has broad authority and responsibility to regulate the operation of aircraft, the use of the navigable airspace and to establish safety standards for and regulate the certification of airmen, aircraft, and air carriers. (49 U.S.C. 40104 et seq., 40103(b)). The FAA's authority for this rule is contained in 49 U.S.C. 40103 and 44715. Under section 40103, the Administrator of the FAA has authority to "prescribe air traffic regulations on the flight of aircraft (including regulations on safe altitudes) for * * * (B) protecting individuals and property on the ground. (49 U.S.C. 40103(b)(2)). In addition, section 44715(a), provides that to "relieve and protect the public health and welfare from aircraft noise," the Administrator of the FAA, "as he deems necessary, shall prescribe * * * (ii) regulations to control and abate aircraft noise * * *."

I. Background

In response to concerns from local residents regarding noise from helicopters operating over Long Island, the FAA adopted the New York North Shore Helicopter Route final rule (77 FR 39911). The rule is based on a voluntary Visual Flight Rule (VFR) route that was developed by the FAA working with the Eastern Region Helicopter Council. The rule requires civil helicopter pilots operating under VFR, whose route of flight takes them over the north shore of Long Island between the VPLYD waypoint and Orient point, to use the North Shore Helicopter Route, as published in the New York Helicopter Chart.¹ The rule permits pilots to deviate from the route and altitude requirements when necessary for safety, weather conditions, or transitioning to or from a destination or point of landing. The rule was promulgated to maximize use of the route as published in order to secure and improve upon decreased levels of noise that had been voluntarily achieved.

The current rule terminates on August 6, 2014. The FAA limited the duration of the rule because at the time of promulgation the FAA did not know the current rate of compliance with the voluntary route or the circumstances surrounding an operator's decision to not use the route. The FAA concluded that "There is no reason to retain this rule if the FAA determines that it is not actually improving the noise situation along the north shore of Long Island."² Accordingly, the agency decided that

¹ The voluntary route originally was added to the Helicopter Route Chart for New York on May 8, 2008.

² See 77 FR 39918.