

[Federal Register: August 28, 2007 (Volume 72, Number 166)]
[Rules and Regulations]
[Page 49173-49175]
From the Federal Register Online via GPO Access [wais.access.gpo.gov]
[DOCID:fr28au07-15]

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Aviation Administration

14 CFR Part 39

[Docket No. FAA-2007-28158; Directorate Identifier 2007-NM-018-AD; Amendment 39-15168; AD 2007-17-10]

RIN 2120-AA64

Airworthiness Directives; Empresa Brasileira de Aeronautica S.A. (EMBRAER) Model EMB-135BJ Airplanes

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

ACTION: Final rule.

SUMMARY: We are adopting a new airworthiness directive (AD) for the products listed above. This AD results from 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:

It has been found cases in which the drain mast of the water and waste system does not meet the SFAR-88 (Special Federal Aviation Regulation No. 88) requirements. In case of fuel leakage or fuel vapor release, the proximity of this mast with the fuel tank may cause fuel ignition, leading to a possible tank explosion.

We are issuing this AD to require actions to correct the unsafe condition on these products.

DATES: This AD becomes effective October 2, 2007.

The Director of the Federal Register approved the incorporation by reference of certain publications listed in this AD as of October 2, 2007.

ADDRESSES: You may examine the AD docket on the Internet at <http://dms.dot.gov> or in person at the U.S. Department of Transportation, Docket Operations, M-30, West Building, Ground Floor, Room W12-140, 1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE., Washington, DC.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Todd Thompson, Aerospace Engineer, International Branch, ANM-116, FAA, Transport Airplane Directorate, 1601 Lind Avenue, SW., Renton, Washington 98057-3356; telephone (425) 227-1175; fax (425) 227-1149.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Discussion

We issued a notice of proposed rulemaking (NPRM) to amend 14 CFR part 39 to include an AD that would apply to the specified products. That NPRM was published in the Federal Register on May 16, 2007 (72 FR 27491). That NPRM proposed to correct an unsafe condition for the specified products. The MCAI states:

It has been found cases in which the drain mast of the water and waste system does not meet the SFAR-88 (Special Federal Aviation Regulation No. 88) requirements. In case of fuel leakage or fuel vapor release, the proximity of this mast with the fuel tank may cause fuel ignition, leading to a possible tank explosion.

The MCAI requires replacement of the water and waste system drain masts by new ones bearing a new part number (P/N). You may obtain further information by examining the MCAI in the AD docket.

Comments

We gave the public the opportunity to participate in developing this AD. We considered the comment received.

Request To Revise Applicability Statement

The airplane manufacturer, EMBRAER, requests that we change the proposed applicability statement from "This AD applies to EMBRAER Model EMB-135BJ airplanes, certificated in any category; except those that have previously accomplished EMBRAER Service Bulletin 145LEG-38-0015 or 145LEG-38-0020" to "This AD applies to EMBRAER Model EMB-135BJ airplanes, certificated in any category as listed in Embraer Service Bulletin 145LEG-38-0013, original issue, dated 24/Mar/2006; except those that have previously accomplished EMBRAER Service Bulletin 145LEG-38-0015 or 145LEG-38-0020." We infer that the manufacturer wants us to restrict our applicability statement to those airplanes with an affected drain mast installed.

We agree to revise the applicability statement of this AD. The service bulletin identifies only those airplanes that have an affected drain mast installed. We have revised paragraph (c) of this AD to clarify which airplanes are affected by this AD. We have coordinated this change with Ag[ecirc]ncia Nacional de Avia[ccedil][atilde]o Civil (ANAC).

Conclusion

We reviewed the available data, including the comment received, and determined that air safety and the public interest require adopting the AD with the change described previously. We determined that this change will not increase the economic burden on any operator or increase the scope of the AD.

Differences Between This AD and the MCAI or Service Information

We have reviewed the MCAI and related service information and, in general, agree with their substance. But we might have found it necessary to use different words from those in the MCAI to ensure the AD is clear for U.S. operators and is enforceable. In making these changes, we do not intend to differ substantively from the information provided in the MCAI and related service information.

We might also have required different actions in this AD from those in the MCAI in order to follow our FAA policies. Any such differences are highlighted in a NOTE within the AD.

Costs of Compliance

We estimate that this AD will affect 41 products of U.S. registry. We also estimate that it will take about 20 work-hours per product to comply with the basic requirements of this AD. The average labor rate is \$80 per work-hour. Required parts will cost about \$9,633 per product. Where the service information lists required parts costs that are covered under warranty, we have assumed that there will be no charge for these parts. As we do not control warranty coverage for affected parties, some parties may incur costs higher than estimated here. Based on these figures, we estimate the cost of this AD to the U.S. operators to be \$460,553, or \$11,233 per product.

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); 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.

We prepared a regulatory evaluation of the estimated costs to comply with this AD and placed it in the AD docket.

Examining the AD Docket

You may examine the AD docket on the Internet at <http://dms.dot.gov>; or in person at the Docket Operations office between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays. The AD docket contains the NPRM, the regulatory evaluation, any comments received, and other information. The street address for the Docket Operations 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 adding the following new AD:



2007-17-10 Empresa Brasileira de Aeronautica S.A. (EMBRAER): Amendment 39-15168.
Docket No. FAA-2007-28158; Directorate Identifier 2007-NM-018-AD.

Effective Date

- (a) This airworthiness directive (AD) becomes effective October 2, 2007.

Affected ADs

- (b) None.

Applicability

(c) This AD applies to EMBRAER Model EMB-135BJ airplanes, as identified in EMBRAER Service Bulletin 145LEG-38-0013, dated March 24, 2006, certificated in any category; except those that have previously accomplished EMBRAER Service Bulletin 145LEG-38-0015 or 145LEG-38-0020.

Subject

- (d) Air Transport Association (ATA) of America Code 38: Water/Waste.

Reason

- (e) The mandatory continuing airworthiness information (MCAI) states:

It has been found cases in which the drain mast of the water and waste system does not meet the SFAR-88 (Special Federal Aviation Regulation No. 88) requirements. In case of fuel leakage or fuel vapor release, the proximity of this mast with the fuel tank may cause fuel ignition, leading to a possible tank explosion.

The MCAI requires replacement of the water and waste system drain masts by new ones bearing a new part number (P/N).

Actions and Compliance

- (f) Unless already done, do the following actions.

(1) Within 5,000 flight hours or 4 years after the effective date of this AD, whichever occurs first, replace the water and waste system drain masts with P/N 9402.369.00674 by new ones bearing a P/N 9402.369.00675, according to the detailed instructions and procedures described in EMBRAER Service Bulletin 145LEG-38-0013, dated March 24, 2006.

(2) The accomplishment of the detailed instructions and procedures described in EMBRAER Service Bulletin 145LEG-38-0015, dated November 25, 2005; or 145LEG-38-0020, dated February 3, 2006; are acceptable for compliance with the requirements of this AD.

FAA AD Differences

Note: This AD differs from the MCAI and/or service information as follows: No differences.

Other FAA AD Provisions

(g) The following provisions also apply to this AD:

(1) Alternative Methods of Compliance (AMOCs): The Manager, International Branch, ANM-116, Transport Airplane Directorate, 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: Todd Thompson, Aerospace Engineer, International Branch, ANM-116, Transport Airplane Directorate, FAA, 1601 Lind Avenue, SW., Renton, Washington 98057-3356; telephone (425) 227-1175; fax (425) 227-1149. 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.

(3) Reporting Requirements: For any reporting requirement in this AD, under the provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act, the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) has approved the information collection requirements and has assigned OMB Control Number 2120-0056.

Related Information

(h) Refer to MCAI Brazilian Airworthiness Directive 2007-01-04, effective January 29, 2007, and the service bulletins listed in Table 1 of this AD, for related information.

Table 1 – Sources of Related Information

EMBRAER Service Bulletin -	Revision Level -	Dated -
145LEG-38-0005	02	November 20, 2003
145LEG-38-0013	Original	March 24, 2006
145LEG-38-0015	Original	November 25, 2005
145LEG-38-0020	Original	February 3, 2006

Material Incorporated by Reference

(i) You must use EMBRAER Service Bulletin 145LEG-38-0013, dated March 24, 2006; and EMBRAER Service Bulletin 145LEG-38-0005, Revision 02, dated November 20, 2003; as applicable; to do the actions required by this AD, unless the AD specifies otherwise.

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

(2) For service information identified in this AD, contact Empresa Brasileira de Aeronautica S.A. (EMBRAER), P.O. Box 343–CEP 12.225, Sao Jose dos Campos–SP, Brazil.

(3) You may review copies at the FAA, Transport Airplane Directorate, 1601 Lind Avenue, SW., Renton, Washington; or 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 Renton, Washington, on August 14, 2007.
Stephen P. Boyd,
Acting Manager, Transport Airplane Directorate, Aircraft Certification Service.
[FR Doc. E7-16427 Filed 8-27-07; 8:45 am]