

the applicant to provide an interpreter. In such cases, the applicant would be in the same position they would have been without this action.

DHS recognizes there are both quantitative and qualitative benefits that could be realized by providing an applicant for asylum the opportunity to bring their own interpreter when a contract interpreter is unavailable, such as the costs avoided that would be incurred through rescheduling if a contract interpreter is unavailable—both for the applicant and USCIS, and the overall positive effect on applicants of having their asylum application timely adjudicated. Once this rule is no longer in effect, asylum applicants unable to proceed with an interview before a USCIS asylum officer in English will again be required to provide their own interpreters under 8 CFR 208.9(g).

F. Executive Order 13132 (Federalism)

This rule will not have substantial direct effects 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, in accordance with section 6 of Executive Order 13132, it is determined that this rule does not have sufficient federalism implications to warrant the preparation of a federalism summary impact statement.

G. Executive Order 12988 (Civil Justice Reform)

This rule meets the applicable standards set forth in section 3(a) and 3(b)(2) of Executive Order 12988.

H. Paperwork Reduction Act

This rule does not propose new, or revisions to existing, “collection[s] of information” as that term is defined under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Public Law 104–13, 44 U.S.C. chapter 35, and its implementing regulations, 5 CFR part 1320. As this action would only span 180 days, USCIS does not anticipate a need to update the Form I–589, Application for Asylum and for Withholding of Removal, despite the existing language on the form instructions regarding interpreters, because it will be primarily rescheduling interviews that were cancelled due to COVID–19. USCIS will post updates on its I–589 website, <https://www.uscis.gov/i-589>, and other asylum and relevant web pages regarding the new interview requirements in this regulation, as well as provide personal notice to applicants via the interview notices issued to applicants prior to their interview.

List of Subjects in 8 CFR Part 208

Administrative practice and procedure, Aliens, Immigration, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements.

Accordingly, for the reasons set forth in the preamble, the Secretary of Homeland Security amends 8 CFR part 208 as follows:

PART 208—PROCEDURES FOR ASYLUM AND WITHHOLDING OF REMOVAL

■ 1. The authority citation for part 208 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 8 U.S.C. 1101, 1103, 1158, 1226, 1252, 1282; Title VII of Pub. L. 110–229; 8 CFR part 2; Pub. L. 115–218.

■ 2. Effective from September 20, 2021, through March 16, 2022, amend § 208.9 by revising paragraphs (h) introductory text and (h)(1)(i) to read as follows:

§ 208.9 Procedure for interview before an asylum officer.

* * * * *

(h) *Asylum applicant interpreters.* For asylum interviews conducted between September 21, 2021, through March 16, 2022:

(1) * * *

(i) If a USCIS interpreter is unavailable, USCIS will either reschedule the interview and attribute the interview delay to USCIS for the purposes of employment authorization pursuant to § 208.7, or USCIS may, in its discretion, allow the applicant to provide an interpreter.

* * * * *

Alejandro Mayorkas,

Secretary, U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

[FR Doc. 2021–20161 Filed 9–16–21; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 9111–97–P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Aviation Administration

14 CFR Part 39

[Docket No. FAA–2021–0263; Project Identifier AD–2020–01702–T; Amendment 39–21710; AD 2021–18–09]

RIN 2120–AA64

Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes

AGENCY: Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), DOT.

ACTION: Final rule.

SUMMARY: The FAA is adopting a new airworthiness directive (AD) for all The

Boeing Company Model 777 airplanes. This AD was prompted by a report that an operator found solid rivets with missing heads at the left buttock line 25 on the sloping pressure deck web. This AD requires doing a detailed inspection of the left- and right-side sloping pressure deck at certain stations for any damaged solid rivets, and applicable on-condition actions. The FAA is issuing this AD to address the unsafe condition on these products.

DATES: This AD is effective October 22, 2021.

The Director of the Federal Register approved the incorporation by reference of a certain publication listed in this AD as of October 22, 2021.

ADDRESSES: For service information identified in this final rule, contact Boeing Commercial Airplanes, Attention: Contractual & Data Services (C&DS), 2600 Westminister Blvd., MC 110–SK57, Seal Beach, CA 90740–5600; telephone 562–797–1717; internet <https://www.myboeingfleet.com>. You may view this service information at the FAA, Airworthiness Products Section, Operational Safety Branch, 2200 South 216th St., Des Moines, WA. For information on the availability of this material at the FAA, call 206–231–3195. It is also available at <https://www.regulations.gov> by searching for and locating Docket No. FAA–2021–0263.

Examining the AD Docket

You may examine the AD docket at <https://www.regulations.gov> by searching for and locating Docket No. FAA–2021–0263; or in person at Docket Operations between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays. The AD docket contains this final rule, any comments received, and other information. The address for Docket Operations is 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 FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Luis Cortez, Aerospace Engineer, Airframe Section, FAA, Seattle ACO Branch, 2200 South 216th St., Des Moines, WA 98198; phone and fax: (206) 231–3958; email: Luis.A.Cortez-Muniz@faa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

The FAA issued a notice of proposed rulemaking (NPRM) to amend 14 CFR part 39 by adding an AD that would apply to all The Boeing Company Model 777 airplanes. The NPRM published in the **Federal Register** on April 9, 2021 (86 FR 18479). The NPRM was

prompted by a report that an operator found solid rivets with missing heads at the left buttock line 25 on the sloping pressure deck web. In the NPRM, the FAA proposed to require doing a detailed inspection of the left- and right-side sloping pressure deck at certain stations for any damaged solid rivets, and applicable on-condition actions. The FAA is issuing this AD to address damaged or missing solid rivet heads on the sloping pressure deck web, which could result in loss of sloping pressure deck panels, causing decompression and pressure loss, and loss of the hydraulic systems in the area for wheel brakes (both normal and alternate) and steering, and potentially leading to runway departure and adversely affecting the structural integrity of the airplane.

Discussion of Final Airworthiness Directive

Comments

The FAA received comments from four commenters, including Boeing, American Airlines (AA), FedEx, and United Airlines (UAL). The following presents the comments received on the NPRM and the FAA's response to each comment.

Request To Revise the On-Condition Actions Statement

Boeing requested a revision to the on-condition actions statement in the third sentence of the "Related Service Information Under 1 CFR part 51" paragraph of the NPRM. Boeing stated that the repetitive detailed inspections cover "two rows of fasteners common to the affected stiffener," instead of "two rows of blind fasteners and solid rivets common to the affected stiffener." Boeing commented that the blind fastener repair option is allowed only under Condition 2 of Boeing Alert Requirements Bulletin 777-53A0093 RB, dated November 24, 2020, which is limited to findings of a maximum of nine damaged rivets within the same stiffener. Boeing commented that the damage rivets must be within the same fastener row, and therefore, the compliance action does not allow for blind fasteners to be installed in both fastener rows of an affected stiffener. Boeing commented that the revised language improves clarity of the on-condition actions because it does not imply that blind fasteners can be installed in both fastener rows of an affected stiffener.

The FAA agrees to revise the on-condition actions statement in the "Related Service Information Under 1 CFR part 51" paragraph of this final rule

for the reasons provided above; the FAA has revised this final rule accordingly.

Request To Revise Cost of Compliance Paragraph

Boeing requested a revision to the on-condition work-hours for replacing a blind fastener. Boeing stated that the blind fastener replacement does not require internal access, and therefore, the 328 work-hours can be reduced to 11 work-hours as noted in Boeing Information Notice 777-53A0093 IN 01, dated January 27, 2021.

The FAA agrees to revise the on-condition work-hours for replacing a blind fastener for the reason provided above; this final rule has been revised accordingly.

Request To Clarify the Applicability

AA asked if the rivet problems specified in the NPRM affect any airplanes in the AA livery, particularly N-numbers (nose numbers) so it can keep better track on preflights.

For clarification, this AD does affect AA airplanes because its fleet includes Model 777-200 and -300ER airplanes. This AD applies to all Model 777-200, -200LR, -300, -300ER, and 777F airplanes, as specified in paragraph (c) of this AD. Since all Model 777 airplanes are affected, it is not necessary to identify airplanes by N-numbers. The FAA has not changed this AD in this regard.

Request To Revise the Compliance Time

FedEx Express (FedEx) agreed with the intent of the proposed AD, but found the 16-month compliance time for the initial inspection does not align with its heavy maintenance visits and requested an extension. FedEx stated that its current heavy maintenance visits would be the suitable time to accomplish the actions in the proposed AD, and that accomplishing the initial inspection in the proposed AD may require performing special maintenance visits. FedEx commented that it currently has 26 Model 777F airplanes that have accumulated more than 32,000 flight hours, and therefore, will be required to accomplish the initial inspection within the 16-month initial compliance time.

FedEx also commented that since Boeing found the missing rivet heads from a retired Model 777-200 airplane, the current in-service Model 777 airplanes can operate with missing rivets without experiencing adverse structural complications since the issue was not discovered until after that airplane retired from service.

The FAA disagrees with the commenter's request to extend the initial compliance time. The FAA cannot assume that Model 777 airplanes can operate with missing rivet heads without experiencing adverse structural complications. The FAA determined that the compliance time, as proposed, represents the maximum interval of time allowable for the affected airplanes to continue to safely operate before the initial and repetitive inspections and on-condition actions are done. If the inspection interval were based on maintenance schedules, which vary among operators, there would be no assurance that the airplane would be inspected and repaired during that maximum interval. In addition, in developing an appropriate compliance time, the FAA coordinated with the manufacturer to provide a compliance time with an acceptable level of safety. However, under the provisions of paragraph (i) of this AD, the FAA will consider requests for approval of an extension of the compliance time, if sufficient data are submitted to substantiate that the change would provide an acceptable level of safety. The FAA has not changed this AD in this regard.

Request To Clarify Required Service Information

FedEx requested that the FAA revise note 1 to paragraph (g) in the proposed AD to clarify that the proposed AD requires accomplishment of the actions only specified in Boeing Alert Requirements Bulletin 777-53A0093 RB, dated November 24, 2020. FedEx stated that note 1 does not clearly distinguish the required actions from the guidance service information for accomplishing the actions in the proposed AD.

The FAA disagrees with the commenter's request to change the note. For clarification, paragraph (g) of this AD states the required actions for applicable airplanes, and only specifies to do all applicable actions identified in, and in accordance with, the Accomplishment Instructions of Boeing Alert Requirements Bulletin 777-53A0093 RB, dated November 24, 2020. The FAA clearly states that note 1 to paragraph (g) of this AD is guidance and Boeing Alert Service Bulletin 777-53A0093, dated November 24, 2020, is only referred to in that note. The FAA has not changed this AD in this regard.

Request To Clarify Repair Instructions

UAL indicated support for the NPRM, but requested clarification as to what to do if a Condition 4 is found in one stiffener and a Condition 3 is found in

another stiffener as referenced in Boeing Alert Service Bulletin 777-53A0093, dated November 24, 2020. UAL stated that Condition 4 requires operators to contact Boeing and request repair instructions and to do the repair if any damaged rivet is found on both fastener rows within the same stiffener.

In addition, UAL requested the following clarifications.

- When contacting Boeing, should operators provide all details of affected stiffeners regardless of the condition identified in Boeing Alert Service Bulletin 777-53A0093, dated November 24, 2020? UAL commented that Boeing Alert Service Bulletin 777-53A0093, dated November 24, 2020, appears to request details associated with a specific stiffener only.

- Where a Condition 4 discrepancy is present, is it acceptable to continue with the repair of an adjacent Condition 3 stiffener discrepancy or is further manufacturer approval required?

UAL stated that it assumes that the conservative approach would be for the operator to provide all details of affected stiffeners to the manufacturer and then the manufacturer will provide approval to repair both Conditions 3 and 4, as referenced in Boeing Alert Service Bulletin 777-53A0093, dated November 24, 2020. UAL asserted that clarification will help operators determine which information is required by the manufacturer to make a repair assessment, and it will also provide clarification as to what to do in the event of a parallel process involving both Condition 3 and Condition 4 repair.

The FAA provides the following clarification for the commenter. This AD requires operators to use Boeing Alert Requirements Bulletin 777-53A0093 RB, dated November 24, 2020, to perform the actions required in this AD. Boeing Alert Service Bulletin 777-53A0093, dated November 24, 2020, is for guidance only. Boeing Alert Requirements Bulletin 777-53A0093 RB, dated November 24, 2020, does not specify any limitations on a Condition 3 repair based on any conditions found on another stiffener. When a Condition 3 is found, the FAA finds no issues with continuing with the Condition 3 repair of replacing all solid rivets even in the event a Condition 4 is found in an adjacent stiffener. Regarding the question on the details to provide to Boeing for a repair, as specified in Note 4. of 5.A., "General Information," of Boeing Alert Requirements Bulletin 777-53A0093 RB, dated November 24, 2020, operators can refer to Boeing Service Letter 777-SL-51-013, Damage Reporting and Repair Plan/Design Guidelines, which describes what information must be provided to Boeing before a structural repair can be provided. The structural repair must be approved by the FAA or the Boeing Company Organization Designation Authorization (ODA) as specified in paragraph (h)(2) of this AD. The FAA has not revised this AD in this regard.

Conclusion

The FAA reviewed the relevant data, considered any comments received, and determined that air safety requires adopting this AD as proposed. Except for minor editorial changes, and any

other changes described previously, this AD is adopted as proposed in the NPRM. None of the changes will increase the economic burden on any operator.

Related Service Information Under 1 CFR Part 51

The FAA reviewed Boeing Alert Requirements Bulletin 777-53A0093 RB, dated November 24, 2020. This service information specifies procedures for doing a detailed inspection of the left- and right-side sloping pressure deck from station (STA) 1245 to STA 1287 for any damaged (*i.e.*, missing solid rivet heads, cracking or deformation of the solid rivet, or gaps between the solid rivet head and the sloping pressure deck surface) solid rivets, and applicable on-condition actions. On-condition actions include repeating the detailed inspection of the left- and right-side sloping pressure deck from STA 1245 to STA 1287 for any damaged solid rivet; repetitive detailed inspections of two rows of fasteners common to the affected stiffener for any damaged solid rivet or damaged blind fastener; replacing solid rivets or blind fasteners; and repair. This service information is reasonably available because the interested parties have access to it through their normal course of business or by the means identified in ADDRESSES.

Costs of Compliance

The FAA estimates that this AD affects 224 airplanes of U.S. registry. The FAA estimates the following costs to comply with this AD:

ESTIMATED COSTS

| Action | Labor cost | Parts cost | Cost per product | Cost on U.S. operators |
|----------------------------|---|------------|----------------------|------------------------|
| Detailed inspections | Up to 384 work-hours × \$85 per hour = Up to \$32,640. | \$0 | Up to \$32,640 | Up to \$7,311,360. |

The FAA estimates the following costs to do any necessary replacements or inspections that would be required

based on the results of the inspection. The agency has no way of determining

the number of aircraft that might need these replacements or inspections:

ON-CONDITION COSTS

| Action | Labor cost | Parts cost | Cost per product |
|--|--|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Replacement (solid fastener) | 338 work-hours × \$85 per hour = \$28,730. | Up to \$3,200 | Up to \$31,930. |
| Replacement (blind fastener) | 11 work-hour × \$85 per hour = \$935. | Up to \$450 | Up to \$1,385. |
| Repetitive inspections of fastener rows. | 326 work-hours × \$85 per hour = \$27,710 per inspection cycle. | \$0 per inspection cycle | \$27,710 per inspection cycle. |

The FAA has received no definitive data on which to base the cost estimates for the on-condition repairs specified in this AD.

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.

The FAA is 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

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 that this AD:

- (1) Is not a "significant regulatory action" under Executive Order 12866,
- (2) Will not affect intrastate aviation in Alaska, 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.

List of Subjects in 14 CFR Part 39

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

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 airworthiness directive:

2021-18-09 The Boeing Company:
Amendment 39-21710; Docket No. FAA-2021-0263; Project Identifier AD-2020-01702-T.

(a) Effective Date

This airworthiness directive (AD) is effective October 22, 2021.

(b) Affected ADs

None.

(c) Applicability

This AD applies to all The Boeing Company Model 777-200, -200LR, -300, -300ER, and 777F airplanes, certificated in any category.

(d) Subject

Air Transport Association (ATA) of America Code 53, Fuselage.

(e) Unsafe Condition

This AD was prompted by a report that an operator found solid rivets with missing heads at the left buttock line 25 on the sloping pressure deck web. The FAA is issuing this AD to address damaged or missing solid rivet heads on the sloping pressure deck web, which could result in loss of sloping pressure deck panels, causing decompression and pressure loss, and loss of the hydraulic systems in the area for wheel brakes (both normal and alternate) and steering, and potentially leading to runway departure and adversely affecting the structural integrity of the airplane.

(f) Compliance

Comply with this AD within the compliance times specified, unless already done.

(g) Required Actions

Except as specified by paragraph (h) of this AD: At the applicable times specified in the "Compliance" paragraph of Boeing Alert Requirements Bulletin 777-53A0093 RB, dated November 24, 2020, do all applicable actions identified in, and in accordance with, the Accomplishment Instructions of Boeing Alert Requirements Bulletin 777-53A0093 RB, dated November 24, 2020.

Note 1 to paragraph (g): Guidance for accomplishing the actions required by this AD can be found in Boeing Alert Service Bulletin 777-53A0093, dated November 24, 2020, which is referred to in Boeing Alert Requirements Bulletin 777-53A0093 RB, dated November 24, 2020.

(h) Exceptions to Service Information Specifications

(1) Where Boeing Alert Requirements Bulletin 777-53A0093 RB, dated November 24, 2020, uses the phrase "the original issue date of 777-53A0093 RB" or "the original issue date of Requirements Bulletin 777-53A0093 RB," this AD requires using "the effective date of this AD," except where Alert Requirements Bulletin 777-53A0093 RB,

dated November 24, 2020, uses the phrase "the original issue date of Requirements Bulletin 777-53A0093 RB" in a note or flag note.

(2) Where Boeing Alert Requirements Bulletin 777-53A0093 RB, dated November 24, 2020, specifies contacting Boeing for repair instructions: This AD requires doing the repair using a method approved in accordance with the procedures specified in paragraph (i) of this AD.

(i) Alternative Methods of Compliance (AMOCs)

(1) The Manager, Seattle ACO Branch, FAA, has the authority to approve AMOCs for this AD, if requested using the procedures found in 14 CFR 39.19. In accordance with 14 CFR 39.19, send your request to your principal inspector or responsible Flight Standards Office, as appropriate. If sending information directly to the manager of the certification office, send it to the attention of the person identified in Related Information. Information may be emailed to: *9-ANM-Seattle-ACO-AMOC-Requests@faa.gov*.

(2) Before using any approved AMOC, notify your appropriate principal inspector, or lacking a principal inspector, the manager of the responsible Flight Standards Office.

(3) An AMOC that provides an acceptable level of safety may be used for any repair, modification, or alteration required by this AD if it is approved by The Boeing Company Organization Designation Authorization (ODA) that has been authorized by the Manager, Seattle ACO Branch, FAA, to make those findings. To be approved, the repair method, modification deviation, or alteration deviation must meet the certification basis of the airplane, and the approval must specifically refer to this AD.

(j) Related Information

(1) For more information about this AD, contact Luis Cortez, Aerospace Engineer, Airframe Section, FAA, Seattle ACO Branch, 2200 South 216th St., Des Moines, WA 98198; phone and fax: (206) 231-3958; email: *Luis.A.Cortez-Muniz@faa.gov*.

(2) Service information identified in this AD that is not incorporated by reference is available at the addresses specified in paragraphs (k)(3) and (4) of this AD.

(k) 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) Boeing Alert Requirements Bulletin 777-53A0093 RB, dated November 24, 2020.

(ii) [Reserved]

(3) For service information identified in this AD, contact Boeing Commercial Airplanes, Attention: Contractual & Data Services (C&DS), 2600 Westminister Blvd., MC 110-SK57, Seal Beach, CA 90740-5600; telephone 562-797-1717; internet *https://www.myboeingfleet.com*.

(4) You may view this service information at the FAA, Airworthiness Products Section, Operational Safety Branch, 2200 South 216th

St., Des Moines, WA. For information on the availability of this material at the FAA, call 206-231-3195.

(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, email fr.inspection@nara.gov, or go to: <https://www.archives.gov/federal-register/cfr/ibr-locations.html>.

Issued on August 25, 2021.

Gaetano A. Sciortino,

Deputy Director for Strategic Initiatives, Compliance & Airworthiness Division, Aircraft Certification Service.

[FR Doc. 2021-20035 Filed 9-16-21; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-13-P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Aviation Administration

14 CFR Part 39

[Docket No. FAA-2019-0919; Project Identifier 2019-NE-24-AD; Amendment 39-21714; AD 2021-18-13]

RIN 2120-AA64

Airworthiness Directives; General Electric Company Turbofan Engines

AGENCY: Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), DOT.
ACTION: Final rule.

SUMMARY: The FAA is adopting a new airworthiness directive (AD) for all General Electric Company (GE) CF34-8 model turbofan engines with a certain outer shell combustion liner (combustion outer liner shell) installed. This AD was prompted by two in-flight engine shutdowns (IFSDs) that occurred as a result of failures of the combustion outer liner shell. This AD requires a borescope inspection (BSI) or visual inspection of the combustion outer liner shell and, depending on the results of the inspection, possible replacement of the combustion outer liner shell. The FAA is issuing this AD to address the unsafe condition on these products.

DATES: This AD is effective October 22, 2021.

The Director of the Federal Register approved the incorporation by reference of certain publications listed in this AD as of October 22, 2021.

ADDRESSES: For service information identified in this final rule, contact General Electric Company, GE Aviation, Room 285, 1 Neumann Way, Cincinnati, OH 45215; phone: (513) 552-3272; email: aviation.fleetsupport@ge.com. You may view this service information at the FAA, Airworthiness Products Section, Operational Safety Branch,

1200 District Avenue, Burlington, MA 01803. For information on the availability of this material at the FAA, call (781) 238-7759. It is also available at <https://www.regulations.gov> by searching for and locating Docket No. FAA-2019-0919.

Examining the AD Docket

You may examine the AD docket at <https://www.regulations.gov> by searching for and locating Docket No. FAA-2019-0919; or in person at Docket Operations between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays. The AD docket contains this final rule, any comments received, and other information. The address for Docket Operations is 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 FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Scott Stevenson, Aviation Safety Engineer, ECO Branch, FAA, 1200 District Avenue, Burlington, MA 01803; phone: (781) 238-7132; fax: (781) 238-7199; email: Scott.M.Stevenson@faa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

The FAA issued a notice of proposed rulemaking (NPRM) to amend 14 CFR part 39 by adding an AD that would apply to all CF34-8C1, CF34-8C5, CF34-8C5A1, CF34-8C5B1, CF34-8C5A2, CF34-8C5A3, CF34-8E2, CF34-8E2A1, CF34-8E5, CF34-8E5A1, CF34-8E5A2, CF34-8E6, and CF34-8E6A1 model turbofan engines with a certain combustion outer liner shell installed. The NPRM published in the **Federal Register** on January 10, 2020 (85 FR 1292). The NPRM was prompted by reports of two IFSDs on GE CF34-8C and -8E model turbofan engines. These IFSDs were due to the cracking and collapsing of the combustion outer liner shell, which resulted in thermal distress of the high-pressure turbine and low-pressure turbine (LPT) including burn-through of the LPT case. In the NPRM, the FAA proposed to require a BSI or visual inspection of the combustion outer liner shell and, depending on the results of the inspection, possible replacement of the combustion outer liner shell. The FAA is issuing this AD to address the unsafe condition on these products.

Discussion of Final Airworthiness Directive

Comments

The FAA received comments from four commenters. The commenters were Horizon Air, Japan Airlines, Endeavor

Air, and the Air Line Pilots Association, International (ALPA). The following presents the comments received on the NPRM and the FAA's response to each comment.

Request To Change the Initial Compliance Time

Horizon Air requested the FAA revise the initial inspection threshold in proposed paragraph (g)(2) of the NPRM to "17,499 flight hours (FHs) time since new (TSN) or time since repair (TSR), or 12,000 flight cycles (FCs) TSN or TSR, whichever occurs later." Horizon Air reasoned that the initial inspection threshold in paragraph (g)(2) of the proposed AD would unfairly penalize operators, like Horizon Air, with high FH to FC ratios. Horizon Air further stated that using the higher FH to FC ratios, the proposed 17,499 FHs TSN or TSR inspection threshold would equate to approximately 11,000 engine FCs. This FC value is substantially below the GE targeted initial engine shop visit threshold of 12,000 to 14,000 FCs and would potentially result in a significant increase in the number of engine shop visits over the 6- to 12-year operating lifespan of each engine.

The FAA partially agrees. While the failure mode is partially related to FCs, the compliance is published in FHs to align with existing maintenance intervals. Incorporating both measures as intervals into this AD is impractical; however, operators may request an alternative method of compliance (AMOC) in accordance with the procedures specified in paragraph (k) of this AD to use alternate intervals. The FAA did not change this AD as a result of this comment.

Request To Change the Installation Prohibition

Horizon Air requested the FAA revise paragraph (h), Installation Prohibition, as proposed in the NPRM, so it does not conflict with the proposed required actions specified in paragraph (g)(1) of the NPRM. Horizon Air stated that paragraph (h) of the proposed AD prohibits installation of a combustion outer liner shell with greater than 17,500 FHs TSN or TSR, without first inspecting it in accordance with paragraph (g)(1) of the proposed AD. However, paragraph (g)(1) of the proposed AD requires inspection of the combustion outer liner shell within 500 engine FHs TSN or TSR for those combustion outer liner shells that have accumulated 17,500 FHs TSN or TSR. Horizon Air concluded that the 18,000 FHs TSN or TSR limitation specified in paragraph (g)(1) of the proposed AD conflicts with the 17,500 FHs TSN or