

wheat was grown in an area that remained regulated or under Emergency Action Notification at the time the wheat was sold. Growers, handlers, and seed companies in previously regulated areas are eligible for compensation only for 1996–1997 or 1997–1998 crop season wheat. The compensation provided in this section is for wheat grain, certified wheat seed, and wheat grown with the intention of producing certified wheat seed.

(1) *Growers.* Growers of wheat in a previously regulated area who sell wheat that was tested by APHIS and found positive for Karnal bunt prior to sale, or that was tested by APHIS and found positive for Karnal bunt after sale and the price received by the grower is contingent on the test results, are eligible to receive compensation at the rate of \$.60 per bushel of positive testing wheat.

(2) *Handlers and seed companies.* Handlers and seed companies who sell wheat grown in a previously regulated area are eligible to receive compensation only if the wheat was not tested by APHIS prior to purchase by the handler, but was tested by APHIS and found positive for Karnal bunt after purchase by the handler or seed company, as long as the price to be paid by the handler or seed company is not contingent on the test results. Compensation will be at the rate of \$.60 per bushel of positive testing wheat.

(c) *To claim compensation.* Compensation payments to growers, handlers, and seed companies under paragraphs (a) and (b) of this section will be issued by the Farm Service Agency (FSA). Claims for compensation for the 1996–1997 crop season must be received by FSA on or before October 8, 1998. Claims for compensation for the 1997–1998 crop season must be received by FSA on or before [the date 120 days after the final rule is published in the Federal Register]. The Administrator may extend the deadline, upon request in specific cases, when unusual and unforeseen circumstances occur which prevent or hinder a claimant from requesting compensation on or before these dates. To claim compensation, a grower, handler, or seed company must complete and submit to the local FSA county office the following documents:

\* \* \* \* \*

(2) *Growers.* \* \* \* Growers compensated under paragraph (b)(1) of this section (previously regulated areas) whose wheat was not tested prior to sale must submit documentation showing that the price paid to the grower was contingent on test results (such as a

copy of the receipt for the final sale of the wheat or a copy of the contract the grower has for the wheat, if this information appears on those documents).

\* \* \* \* \*

#### § 301.89–16 [Amended]

3. Section 301.89–16 would be amended as follows:

a. In the heading, by removing the words “1996–1997 crop season” and adding the words “1996–1997 and 1997–1998 crop seasons” in their place.

b. In the introductory text, by removing the words “1996–1997 crop season” and adding the words “1996–1997 and 1997–1998 crop seasons” in their place.

c. In paragraphs (a), (b), (c)(1), and (c)(2), by removing the last two sentences in each paragraph and by adding three sentences in their place to read as follows: “Claims for compensation for the 1996–1997 crop season must be received by APHIS on or before October 8, 1998. Claims for compensation for the 1997–1998 crop season must be received by APHIS on or before [the date 120 days after the final rule is published in the Federal Register]. The Administrator may extend these deadlines upon written request in specific cases, when unusual and unforeseen circumstances occur which prevent or hinder a claimant from requesting compensation on or before these dates.”

Done in Washington, DC, this 14th day of December 1998.

**Joan M. Arnoldi,**

*Acting Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.*

[FR Doc. 98–33434 Filed 12–16–98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410–34–P

## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

### Federal Aviation Administration

#### 14 CFR Part 39

[Docket No. 98–NM–238–AD]

RIN 2120–AA64

#### Airworthiness Directives; Boeing Model 757–200 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 757–200 series airplanes. This proposal would require replacement of

the stringer clip(s) with a new stringer clip(s), and modification of the life raft support structure and/or life raft doors, as applicable. This proposal is prompted by a report that certain life raft stowage compartments and certain life raft doors are understrength. The actions specified by the proposed AD are intended to prevent a life raft falling from its stowage compartment, and consequently injuring nearby occupants or delaying or impeding the evacuation of passengers during an emergency landing.

**DATES:** Comments must be received by February 1, 1999.

**ADDRESSES:** Submit comments in triplicate to the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), Transport Airplane Directorate, ANM–114, Attention: Rules Docket No. 98–NM–238–AD, 1601 Lind Avenue, SW., Renton, Washington 98055–4056. Comments may be inspected at this location between 9:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays.

The service information referenced in the proposed rule may be obtained from Boeing Commercial Airplane Group, P.O. Box 3707, Seattle, Washington 98124–2207. This information may be examined at the FAA, Transport Airplane Directorate, 1601 Lind Avenue, SW., Renton, Washington.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Keith Ladderud, Aerospace Engineer, Airframe Branch, ANM–120S, FAA, Transport Airplane Directorate, Seattle Aircraft Certification Office, 1601 Lind Avenue, SW., Renton, Washington 98055–4056; telephone (425) 227–2780; fax (425) 227–1181.

#### 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 notice may be changed in light of the comments received.

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 notice must submit a self-addressed, stamped postcard on which the following statement is made: "Comments to Docket Number 98-NM-238-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. 98-NM-238-AD, 1601 Lind Avenue, SW., Renton, Washington 98055-4056.

#### Discussion

The FAA has received a report that certain life raft stowage compartments and certain life raft doors are understrength on Boeing Model 757-200 series airplanes. Analysis and testing has shown that, under certain loading conditions during an emergency landing, the structure of the life raft stowage compartment could fail, and/or the doors of these compartments could break from their hinges. Investigation has revealed that the existing design of the life raft stowage compartments is inadequate to carry the load, and that certain life raft doors were not manufactured to the proper specifications. These conditions, if not corrected, could result in a life raft falling from its stowage compartment, and consequently injuring nearby occupants or delaying or impeding the evacuation of passengers during an emergency landing.

#### Explanation of Relevant Service Information

The FAA has reviewed and approved Boeing Service Bulletin 757-25-0180, dated October 9, 1997, which describes procedures for replacement of the stringer clip(s) with a new stringer clip(s), and modification of the life raft support structure and/or life raft doors, as applicable. The modification involves installation of doublers, channels, tie rod and radius blocks, and brackets, as applicable. Accomplishment of the actions specified in the service bulletin is intended to adequately address the identified unsafe condition.

#### Explanation of Requirements of Proposed Rule

Since an unsafe condition has been identified that is likely to exist or develop on other products of this same

type design, the proposed AD would require accomplishment of the actions specified in the service bulletin described previously.

#### Differences Between Proposed Rule and Service Bulletin

Operators should note that, although the service bulletin recommends that the replacement and modification be accomplished at the first maintenance opportunity, the FAA has determined that such an unspecified interval may not address the identified unsafe condition in a timely manner. In developing an appropriate compliance time for this AD, the FAA considered not only the manufacturer's recommendation, but the degree of urgency associated with addressing the subject unsafe condition, the average utilization of the affected fleet, and the time necessary to perform the proposed actions. In light of all of these factors, the FAA finds an 18-month compliance time for accomplishing the proposed actions to be warranted, in that it represents an appropriate interval of time allowable for affected airplanes to continue to operate without compromising safety.

#### Cost Impact

There are approximately 256 airplanes of the affected design in the worldwide fleet. The FAA estimates that 139 airplanes of U.S. registry would be affected by this proposed AD.

For Groups 1 and 2 airplanes (as specified in the service bulletin), it would take approximately 32 work hours per airplane to accomplish the proposed actions, at an average labor rate of \$60 per work hour. Required parts would cost approximately \$4,544 (for Group 1 airplanes) or \$4,801 (for Group 2 airplanes) per airplane. Based on these figures, the cost impact of the actions proposed by this AD on U.S. operators of Groups 1 and 2 airplanes is estimated to be \$6,464 (for Group 1 airplanes), or \$6,721 (for Group 2 airplanes) per airplane.

For Groups 3 and 4 airplanes, it would take approximately 30 work hours per airplane to accomplish the proposed actions, at an average labor rate of \$60 per work hour. Required parts would cost approximately \$3,668 (for Group 3 airplanes) or \$3,530 (for Group 4 airplanes) per airplane. Based on these figures, the cost impact of the actions proposed by this AD on U.S. operators of Groups 3 and 4 airplanes is estimated to be \$5,468 (for Group 3 airplanes), or \$5,330 (for Group 4 airplanes) per airplane.

For Group 5 airplanes, it would take approximately 6 work hours per

airplane to accomplish the proposed actions, at an average labor rate of \$60 per work hour. Required parts would cost approximately \$680 per airplane. Based on these figures, the cost impact of the actions proposed by this AD on this group of U.S. operators is estimated to be \$1,040 per airplane.

For Group 6 airplanes, it would take approximately 20 work hours per airplane to accomplish the proposed actions, at an average labor rate of \$60 per work hour. Required parts would cost approximately \$2,785 per airplane. Based on these figures, the cost impact of the actions proposed by this AD on this group of U.S. operators is estimated to be \$3,985 per airplane.

For Group 7 airplanes, it would take approximately 13 work hours per airplane to accomplish the proposed actions, at an average labor rate of \$60 per work hour. Required parts would cost approximately \$1,019 per airplane. Based on these figures, the cost impact of the actions proposed by this AD on this group of U.S. operators is estimated to be \$1,799 per airplane.

For Group 8 airplanes, it would take approximately 15 work hours per airplane to accomplish the proposed actions, at an average labor rate of \$60 per work hour. Required parts would cost approximately \$2,187 per airplane. Based on these figures, the cost impact of the actions proposed by this AD on this group of U.S. operators is estimated to be \$3,087 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.

#### Regulatory Impact

The regulations proposed herein would 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 Executive Order 12612, it is determined that this proposal would not have sufficient federalism implications to warrant the preparation of a Federalism Assessment.

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:

**Boeing:** Docket 98–NM–238–AD.

**Applicability:** Model 757–200 series airplanes, as listed in Boeing Service Bulletin 747–25–0180, dated October 9, 1997; certificated in any category.

**Note 1:** This AD applies to each airplane identified in the preceding applicability provision, regardless of whether it has been modified, altered, or repaired in the area subject to the requirements of this AD. For airplanes that have been modified, altered, or repaired so that the performance of the requirements of this AD is affected, the owner/operator must request approval for an alternative method of compliance in accordance with paragraph (b) of this AD. The request should include an assessment of the effect of the modification, alteration, or repair on the unsafe condition addressed by this AD; and, if the unsafe condition has not been eliminated, the request should include specific proposed actions to address it.

**Compliance:** Required as indicated, unless accomplished previously. To prevent a life raft from falling from its stowage compartment, and consequently injuring nearby occupants or delaying or impeding the evacuation of passengers during an emergency landing, accomplish the following:

(a) Within 18 months after the effective date of this AD, replace the stringer clip(s) with a new stringer clip(s), and modify the life raft support structure and/or life raft door, as applicable, in accordance with Boeing Service Bulletin 757–25–0180, dated October 9, 1997.

(b) An alternative method of compliance or adjustment of the compliance time that provides an acceptable level of safety may be

used if approved by the Manager, Seattle Aircraft Certification Office (ACO), FAA, Transport Airplane Directorate. Operators shall submit their requests through an appropriate FAA Principal Maintenance Inspector, who may add comments and then send it to the Manager, Seattle ACO.

**Note 2:** Information concerning the existence of approved alternative methods of compliance with this AD, if any, may be obtained from the Seattle ACO.

(c) Special flight permits may be issued in accordance with sections 21.197 and 21.199 of the Federal Aviation Regulations (14 CFR 21.197 and 21.199) to operate the airplane to a location where the requirements of this AD can be accomplished.

Issued in Renton, Washington, on December 11, 1998.

**Darrell M. Pederson,**

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

[FR Doc. 98–33391 Filed 12–16–98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910–13–U

#### DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

#### Federal Aviation Administration

#### 14 CFR Part 39

[Docket No. 96–NM–66–AD]

RIN 2120–AA64

#### Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Model A310 and A300–600 Series Airplanes Equipped With General Electric CF6–80C2 Engines

**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 A310 and A300–600 series airplanes. This proposal would require repetitive flow checks of the hydraulic pump drain system to ensure that the system is not clogged, and correction of any discrepancy. This proposal also would require replacement of the existing magnetic seals of the accessory gearbox assembly with new, improved seals. Replacement of certain seals would terminate the requirement for repetitive flow checks. This proposal also would require replacement of the engine drain modules with drain manifolds. This proposal is prompted by issuance of mandatory continuing airworthiness information by a foreign civil airworthiness authority. The actions specified by the proposed AD are intended to prevent contamination of the engine accessory gearbox oil with

hydraulic fluid, which could result in an in-flight engine shutdown.

**DATES:** Comments must be received by January 19, 1999.

**ADDRESSES:** Submit comments in triplicate to the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), Transport Airplane Directorate, ANM–114, Attention: Rules Docket No. 96–NM–66–AD, 1601 Lind Avenue, SW., Renton, Washington 98055–4056. Comments may be inspected at this location between 9:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays.

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:

Norman B. Martenson, Manager, International Branch, ANM–116, FAA, Transport Airplane Directorate, 1601 Lind Avenue, SW., Renton, Washington 98055–4056; telephone (425) 227–2110; 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 notice may be changed in light of the comments received.

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 notice must submit a self-addressed, stamped postcard on which the following statement is made: "Comments to Docket Number 96–NM–66–AD." The postcard will be date stamped and returned to the commenter.