

also issued under sec. 184, 68 Stat. 954, as amended (42 U.S.C. 2234). Appendix F also issued under sec. 187, 68 Stat. 955 (42 U.S.C. 2237).

2. Section 50.68 is added under the center heading "Issuance, Limitations, and Conditions of Licenses and Construction Permits" to read as follows:

**§ 50.68 Criticality accident requirements.**

(a) Each holder of a construction permit or operating license for a nuclear power reactor issued under this part or a combined license for a nuclear power reactor issued under Part 52 of this chapter, shall comply with either 10 CFR 70.24 of this chapter or the requirements in paragraph (b) of this section.

(b) Each licensee shall comply with the following requirements in lieu of maintaining a monitoring system capable of detecting a criticality as described in 10 CFR 70.24:

(1) Plant procedures shall prohibit the handling and storage at any one time of more fuel assemblies than have been determined to be safely subcritical under the most adverse moderation conditions feasible by unborated water.

(2) The estimated ratio of neutron production to neutron absorption and leakage (k-effective) of the fresh fuel in the fresh fuel storage racks shall be calculated assuming the racks are loaded with fuel of the maximum fuel assembly reactivity and flooded with unborated water and must not exceed 0.95, at a 95 percent probability, 95 percent confidence level. This evaluation need not be performed if administrative controls and/or design features prevent such flooding or if fresh fuel storage racks are not used.

(3) If optimum moderation of fresh fuel in the fresh fuel storage racks occurs when the racks are assumed to be loaded with fuel of the maximum fuel assembly reactivity and filled with low-density hydrogenous fluid, the k-effective corresponding to this optimum moderation must not exceed 0.98, at a 95 percent probability, 95 percent confidence level. This evaluation need not be performed if administrative controls and/or design features prevent such moderation or if fresh fuel storage racks are not used.

(4) If no credit for soluble boron is taken, the k-effective of the spent fuel storage racks loaded with fuel of the maximum fuel assembly reactivity must not exceed 0.95, at a 95 percent probability, 95 percent confidence level, if flooded with unborated water. If credit is taken for soluble boron, the k-effective of the spent fuel storage racks loaded with fuel of the maximum fuel

assembly reactivity must not exceed 0.95, at a 95 percent probability, 95 percent confidence level, if flooded with borated water, and the k-effective must remain below 1.0 (subcritical), at a 95 percent probability, 95 percent confidence level, if flooded with unborated water.

(5) The quantity of SNM, other than nuclear fuel stored onsite, is less than the quantity necessary for a critical mass.

(6) Radiation monitors are provided in storage and associated handling areas when fuel is present to detect excessive radiation levels and to initiate appropriate safety actions.

(7) The maximum nominal U-235 enrichment of the fresh fuel assemblies is limited to five (5.0) percent by weight.

(8) The FSAR is amended no later than the next update which § 50.71(e) of this part requires, indicating that the licensee has chosen to comply with § 50.68(b).

**PART 70—DOMESTIC LICENSING OF SPECIAL NUCLEAR MATERIAL**

The authority citation for 10 CFR part 70 continues to read as follows:

**1. Authority:** Secs. 51, 53, 161, 182, 183, 68 Stat. 929, 930, 948, 953, 954, as amended, sec. 234, 83 Stat. 444, as amended, sec. 1701, 106 Stat. 2951, 2952, 2953 (42 U.S.C. 2071, 2073, 2201, 2232, 2233, 2282, 2297f); secs. 201, as amended, 202, 204, 206, 88 Stat. 1242, as amended, 1244, 1245, 1246, (42 U.S.C. 5841, 5842, 5845, 5846).

Sections 70.1(c) and 70.20a(b) also issued under secs. 135, 141, Pub. L. 97-425, 96 Stat. 2232, 2241 (42 U.S.C. 10155, 10161). Section 70.7 also issued under Pub. L. 95-601, sec. 10, 92 Stat. 2951 (42 U.S.C. 5851). Section 70.21(g) also issued under sec. 122, 68 Stat. 939 (42 U.S.C. 2152). Section 70.31 also issued under sec. 57d, Pub. L. 93-377, 88 Stat. 475 (42 U.S.C. 2077). Sections 70.36 and 70.44 also issued under sec. 184, 68 Stat. 954, as amended (42 U.S.C. 2234).

Section 70.61 also issued under secs. 186, 187, 68 Stat. 955 (42 U.S.C. 2236, 2237). Section 70.62 also issued under sec. 108, 68 Stat. 939, as amended (42 U.S.C. 2138).

2. In § 70.24, paragraph (d) is revised to read as follows:

**§ 70.24 Criticality accident requirements.**

\* \* \* \* \*

(d)(1) The requirements in paragraphs (a) through (c) of this section do not apply to a holder of a construction permit or operating license for a nuclear power reactor issued under part 50 of this chapter or a combined license issued under part 52 of this chapter, if the holder complies with the requirements of paragraph (b) of 10 CFR 50.68.

(2) An exemption from § 70.24 held by a licensee who thereafter elects to

comply with requirements of paragraph (b) of 10 CFR 50.68 does not exempt that licensee from complying with any of the requirements in § 50.68, but shall be ineffective so long as the licensee elects to comply with § 50.68.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland this 28th day of October, 1998.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

**William D. Travers,**

*Executive Director for Operations.*

[FR Doc. 98-30253 Filed 11-10-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7590-01-P

**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**

**Federal Aviation Administration**

**14 CFR Part 39**

[Docket No. 98-NM-217-AD; Amendment 39-10880; AD 98-23-13]

RIN 2120-AA64

**Airworthiness Directives; British Aerospace Model Viscount 744, 745, 745D, and 810 Series Airplanes**

**AGENCY:** Federal Aviation Administration, DOT.

**ACTION:** Final rule.

**SUMMARY:** This amendment supersedes an existing airworthiness directive (AD), applicable to all British Aerospace Model Viscount 700, 800, and 810 series airplanes, that currently requires repetitive inspections to detect cracks and corrosion in the inboard and outboard engine nacelle structures on the wings; replacement of any cracked fittings and mating struts; and treatment or replacement of any corroded fittings or struts. This amendment requires repetitive inspections to detect cracking or corrosion of the eye end fittings of the outboard engine lower support or of the bore of the taper pin holes, and repair, if necessary. This amendment also limits the applicability of the existing AD. This amendment is prompted by reports of cracked and separated lower eye end fittings. The actions specified by this AD are intended to detect and correct cracking of the eye end fittings of the outboard engine lower support, which could result in reduced structural integrity of the engine nacelle support structures.

**DATES:** Effective December 17, 1998.

The incorporation by reference of certain publications listed in the regulations is approved by the Director

of the Federal Register as of December 17, 1998.

**ADDRESSES:** The service information referenced in this AD may be obtained from British Aerospace Regional Aircraft Limited, Chadderton Division, Engineering Support, Greengate, Middleton, Manchester M24 1SA, England. This information may be examined at the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), Transport Airplane Directorate, Rules Docket, 1601 Lind Avenue, SW., Renton, Washington; or at the Office of the Federal Register, 800 North Capitol Street, NW., suite 700, Washington, DC.

**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:** A proposal to amend part 39 of the Federal Aviation Regulations (14 CFR part 39) by superseding AD 90-20-17, amendment 39-6744 (55 FR 38539, September 19, 1990), which is applicable to all British Aerospace Model Viscount 700, 800, and 810 series airplanes, was published in the Federal Register on September 8, 1998 (63 FR 47440). The action proposed to require new repetitive inspections to detect cracking or corrosion of the eye end fittings of the outboard engine lower support or of the bore of the taper pin holes, and repair, if necessary. The action also proposed to limit the applicability of the existing AD.

#### Comments

Interested persons have been afforded an opportunity to participate in the making of this amendment. No comments were submitted in response to the proposal or the FAA's determination of the cost to the public.

#### Conclusion

The FAA has determined that air safety and the public interest require the adoption of the rule as proposed.

#### Cost Impact

There are approximately 29 airplanes of U.S. registry that will be affected by this AD.

The new eddy current inspections that are required in this AD take approximately 2 work hours per airplane to accomplish, at an average labor rate of \$60 per work hour. Based on these figures, the cost impact of the inspections required by this AD on U.S. operators is estimated to be \$3,480, or \$120 per airplane, per inspection cycle.

The cost impact figure discussed above is based on assumptions that no operator has yet accomplished any of the 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 adopted herein 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 Executive Order 12612, it is determined that this final rule does not have sufficient federalism implications to warrant the preparation of a Federalism Assessment.

For the reasons discussed above, I certify that this action (1) is not a "significant regulatory action" under Executive Order 12866; (2) is not a "significant rule" under 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. A final evaluation has been prepared for this action and it is contained in the Rules Docket. A copy of it may be obtained from the Rules Docket at the location provided under the caption ADDRESSES.

#### List of Subjects in 14 CFR Part 39

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

#### Adoption of the Amendment

Accordingly, pursuant to the authority delegated to me by the Administrator, the Federal Aviation Administration amends 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 removing amendment 39-6744 (55 FR 38539, September 19, 1990), and by adding a new airworthiness directive

(AD), amendment 39-10880, to read as follows:

**98-23-13 British Aerospace Regional Aircraft Limited (Formerly British Aerospace Commercial Aircraft Limited, Vickers-Armstrongs Aircraft Limited):** Amendment 39-10880. Docket 98-NM-217-AD. Supersedes AD 90-20-17, amendment 39-6744.

**Applicability:** Model Viscount 744, 745, and 745D series airplanes, on which British Aerospace Modification D3227 has not been accomplished; and Model Viscount 810 series airplanes, on which British Aerospace Modification FG 2103 has not been accomplished; certificated in any category.

**Note 1:** This AD applies to each airplane identified in the preceding applicability provision, regardless of whether it has been otherwise 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 (c) 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 detect and correct cracking of the eye end fittings of the outboard engine lower support, which could result in reduced structural integrity of the engine nacelle support structures, accomplish the following:

(a) Perform an eddy current inspection to detect cracking or corrosion of the eye end fittings of the outboard engine lower support, or of the bore of the taper pin holes, in accordance with the Accomplishment Instructions of British Aerospace Preliminary Technical Leaflet (PTL) No. 326, Issue 2, including Appendices 1 and 2, all dated December 1, 1994 (for Model Viscount 744, 745, and 745D series airplanes); or PTL 197, Issue 3, including Appendices 1 and 2, all dated November 20, 1993 (for Model Viscount 810 series airplanes); at the applicable time specified in either paragraph (a)(1) or (a)(2) of this AD. Thereafter, repeat the inspection at intervals not to exceed 900 landings.

(1) For Model Viscount 744, 745, and 745D series airplanes: Inspect within 3 months after the effective date of this AD.

(2) For Model Viscount 810 series airplanes: Inspect within 900 landings after the last inspection performed in accordance with PTL 197, Issue 2, dated July 10, 1992; or within 3 months after the effective date of this AD; whichever occurs later.

(b) If any cracking is found during any inspection performed in accordance with paragraph (a) of this AD, prior to further flight, repair in accordance with a method approved by the Manager, International Branch, ANM-116, FAA, Transport Airplane Directorate; or the Civil Aviation Authority (or its delegated agent).

(c) 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, International Branch, ANM-116. Operators shall submit their requests through an appropriate FAA Principal Maintenance Inspector, who may add comments and then

send it to the Manager, International Branch, ANM-116.  
**Note 2:** Information concerning the existence of approved alternative methods of compliance with this AD, if any, may be obtained from the International Branch, ANM-116.  
(d) 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.  
(e) The inspections shall be done in accordance with the following British Aerospace Regional Aircraft Preliminary Technical Leaflets, which contain the specified effective pages:

Preliminary technical leaflet referenced and date	Page number shown on page	Revision level shown on page	Date shown on page
PTL 326, Issue 2, December 1, 1994 .....	1-6	2	December 1, 1994.
	APPENDIX 1		
	1-6	2	December 1, 1994.
	APPENDIX 2		
	1-6	2	December 1, 1994.
PTL 197, Issue 3, November 20, 1993 .....	1-8	3	November 20, 1993.
	APPENDIX 1		
	1-6	3	November 20, 1993.
	APPENDIX 2		
	1-7	Original	November 20, 1993.

This incorporation by reference was approved by the Director of the Federal Register in accordance with 5 U.S.C. 552(a) and 1 CFR part 51. Copies may be obtained from British Aerospace Regional Aircraft Limited, Chadderton Division, Engineering Support, Greengate, Middleton, Manchester M24 1SA, England. Copies may be inspected at the FAA, Transport Airplane Directorate, 1601 Lind Avenue, SW., Renton, Washington; or at the Office of the Federal Register, 800 North Capitol Street, NW., suite 700, Washington, DC.

(f) This amendment becomes effective on December 17, 1998.  
Issued in Renton, Washington, on November 3, 1998.

**Darrell M. Pederson,**  
*Acting Manager, Transport Airplane Directorate, Aircraft Certification Service.*  
[FR Doc. 98-30053 Filed 11-10-98; 8:45 am]  
BILLING CODE 4910-13-P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Aviation Administration

14 CFR Part 39

[Docket No. 98-NM-143-AD; Amendment 39-10879; AD 98-23-12]

RIN 2120-AA64

Airworthiness Directives; de Havilland Model DHC-7 Series Airplanes

**AGENCY:** Federal Aviation Administration, DOT.  
**ACTION:** Final rule.

**SUMMARY:** This amendment supersedes an existing airworthiness directive (AD), applicable to all de Havilland Model DHC-7 series airplanes, that currently requires certain structural inspections, and repair, if necessary. This

amendment requires an additional structural inspection. This amendment is prompted by issuance of mandatory continuing airworthiness information by a foreign civil airworthiness authority. The actions specified by this AD are intended to detect and correct fatigue cracking in certain significant structural areas, which could reduce the structural integrity of these airplanes.

**DATES:** Effective December 17, 1998.  
The incorporation by reference of certain publications, as listed in the regulations, is approved by the Director of the Federal Register as of December 17, 1998.

The incorporation by reference of a certain other publication, as listed in the regulations, was approved previously by the Director of the Federal Register as of April 21, 1997 (62 FR 12531, March 17, 1997).

**ADDRESSES:** The service information referenced in this AD may be obtained from Bombardier, Inc., Bombardier Regional Aircraft Division, Garratt Boulevard, Downsview, Ontario M3K 1Y5, Canada. This information may be examined at the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), Transport Airplane Directorate, Rules Docket, 1601 Lind Avenue, SW., Renton, Washington; or at the FAA, Engine and Propeller Directorate, New York Aircraft Certification Office, 10 Fifth Street, Third Floor, Valley Stream, New York; or at the Office of the Federal Register, 800 North Capitol Street, NW., suite 700, Washington, DC.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Serge Napoleon, Aerospace Engineer, Airframe and Propulsion Branch, ANE-171, FAA, Engine and Propeller Directorate, New York Aircraft

Certification Office, 10 Fifth Street, Third Floor, Valley Stream, New York 11581; telephone (516) 256-7512; fax (516) 568-2716.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** A proposal to amend part 39 of the Federal Aviation Regulations (14 CFR part 39) by superseding AD 97-06-08, amendment 39-9965 (62 FR 12531, March 17, 1997), which is applicable to all de Havilland Model DHC-7 series airplanes, was published in the **Federal Register** on September 3, 1998 (63 FR 46925). The action proposed to continue to require certain structural inspections, and repair, if necessary. The action also proposed to require an additional structural inspection.

Comments

Interested persons have been afforded an opportunity to participate in the making of this amendment. No comments were submitted in response to the proposal or the FAA's determination of the cost to the public.

Conclusion

The FAA has determined that air safety and the public interest require the adoption of the rule as proposed.

Cost Impact

There are approximately 50 airplanes of U.S. registry that will be affected by this AD.

The inspections that are currently required by AD 97-06-08, and retained in this AD, take approximately 15 work hours per airplane to accomplish, at an average labor rate of \$60 per work hour. Based on these figures, the cost impact of the currently required inspections on