tank vent is continuously exposed to flame.

* * * * *

PART 121—OPERATING REQUIREMENTS: DOMESTIC, FLAG, AND SUPPLEMENTAL OPERATIONS

§ 121.109 Fuel tank vent explosion protection.

(a) Applicability. This section applies to transport category, turbine-powered airplanes with a type certificate issued after January 1, 1958, that have:

(1) A maximum type-certificated passenger capacity of 30 or more; or

(2) A maximum payload capacity of 7,500 pounds or more.

(b) New production airplanes. New production airplanes. No certificate holder may operate an airplane for which the State of Manufacture issued the original certificate of airworthiness or export airworthiness approval after August 23, 2018 unless means, approved by the Administrator, to prevent fuel tank explosions caused by propagation of flames from outside the fuel tank vents into the fuel tank vapor spaces are installed and operational.

§ 129.119 Fuel tank vent explosion protection.

(b) New production airplanes. No certificate holder may operate an airplane for which the State of Manufacture issued the original certificate of airworthiness or export airworthiness approval after August 23, 2018 unless means, approved by the Administrator, to prevent fuel tank explosions caused by propagation of flames from outside the fuel tank vents into the fuel tank vapor spaces are installed and operational.

Issued under authority provided by 49 U.S.C. 106(f) and 44701(a) in Washington, DC, on June 7, 2016.

Michael P. Huerta,
Administrator.

[FR Doc. 2016–11445 Filed 6–23–16; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910–13–P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
Federal Aviation Administration

14 CFR Part 39


RIN 2120–AA64

Airworthiness Directives; General Electric Company Turbofan Engines

AGENCY: Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), DOT.

ACTION: Final rule.

SUMMARY: We are adopting a new airworthiness directive (AD) for all General Electric Company (GE) GE90–76B, GE90–77B, GE90–85B, GE90–90B, and GE90–94B turbofan engines. This AD was prompted by an uncontained failure of the high-pressure compressor (HPC) stage 8–10 spool, leading to an engine fire. The NPRM proposed to require ECIs or USIs of the HPC stage 8–10 spool and removing from service those parts that fail inspection. We are issuing this AD to prevent failure of the HPC stage 8–10 spool, uncontained rotor release, damage to the engine, and damage to the airplane.

Comments

We gave the public the opportunity to participate in developing this AD. The following presents the comments received on the NPRM (81 FR 1582, January 13, 2016) and the FAA’s response to each comment.

Support for the NPRM (81 FR 1582, January 13, 2016)

The Air Line Pilots Association expressed support for the NPRM (81 FR 1582, January 13, 2016). 

Request To Change Applicability

British Airways, United Airlines, and The Boeing Company commented that HPC stage 8–10 spool, part numbers (P/ Ns) 1844M90G01 and 1844M90G02 are not required in the Applicability paragraph of this AD. They noted that the associated AD 2015–27–01, (81 FR 1291, January 12, 2016) and the precipitating event involved only HPC stage 8–10 spool, P/N 1694M80G04.

We disagree. HPC stage 8–10 spool P/N 1844M90G01 and 1844M90G02 are susceptible to the same failure mode as HPC stage 8–10 spool, P/N 1694M80G04. However, we
acknowledge that the one-time inspection is not needed for the majority of HPC, stage 8–10 spool P/Ns 1844M90G01 and 1844M90G02. Therefore, we revised paragraph (e)(1) of this AD to apply to only specific serial numbers (S/Ns) of P/Ns 1844M90G01 and 1844M90G02 for the one-time inspection.

**Request To Change Compliance Time**

British Airways requested that we clarify if a repetitive on-wing inspection is required. They reasoned that the service information lists the on-wing inspection as one time only.

We disagree. Paragraph (e)(1) of this AD mandates that specific parts be inspected prior to a cycle limit. This initial inspection may be performed on wing using USI or at shop visit using ECI. Repetitive inspections prior to shop visit are not mandated, however we acknowledge that GE has commented that they should be performed. We did not change this AD.

**Request To Change Terminating Action**

GE requested that we remove the repetitive shop visit inspection from the Compliance section of this AD and instead mandate that the airworthiness limitations section (ALS) of the engine manual include the repetitive inspections. They also requested that the Summary section and Related Information section of this AD be revised to reflect this change. They reasoned that this will allow a terminating action for this AD.

We disagree. At this time we do not feel that a change to the ALS is appropriate as root cause has not been determined. We did not change this AD.

**Request To Change Installation Prohibition**

GE requested that we clarify that the installation prohibition does not apply to new parts. They stated that new parts do not need to be inspected prior to installation. The inspections are only applicable to parts that have been used in service.

We agree. We revised paragraph (f) of this AD to specify that inspections are only required for parts that have been used in service.

**Request To Change Service Information**

GE and British Airways requested that we revise the Related Service Information paragraph of this AD to remove the reference to Engine Manual, Chapter 72–00–31, Special Procedure 007 and add a reference to GE GE90 SB 72–1146. They reasoned that the Special Procedure is considered an additional inspection technique and the other inspection procedures listed provide full detection capability of defects in the area of concern.

We disagree. The service information is not incorporated by reference in this AD and was previously included for information purposes only. However, to preclude any confusion on this point, we removed all service information from the Related Information section of this AD.

**Request To Change Applicability**

GE requested that we reduce the applicability for the initial inspection. GE has determined that an older manufacturing process may be a contributor to part failure and that all parts manufactured using this process should be inspected prior to shop visit.

We agree. We revised the applicability of the initial inspection to include all HPC stage 8–10 spool, P/N 1694M80G04, and specific S/Ns of HPC stage 8–10 spool, P/Ns 1844M90G01 and 1844M90G02, that were manufactured using the older process.

**Request To Change Compliance Time**

GE has requested that the initial USI compliance time be reduced and to add repetitive inspections every 500 cycles until shop visit ECI for the parts manufactured using the older manufacturing process noted above. GE has determined that the smallest detectable flaw using USI with the compressor blades installed is larger than what was used in the prior analysis.

We partially agree. We agree that the USI inspection is not as capable as what was used in the prior analysis. We also agree that a reduced threshold for initial inspection is appropriate. So, we reduced the initial inspection threshold in paragraph (e)(1) of this AD from 10,500 cycles to 9,000 cycles and removed USI as an option for the inspections in paragraph (e)(2) of this AD. We disagree with including the 500 cycle repetitive inspections; however, repetitive inspections would be a consideration for additional rulemaking.

**Conclusion**

We reviewed the relevant data, considered the comments received, and determined that air safety and the public interest require adopting this AD with the changes described previously. We have determined that these minor changes:

- Are consistent with the intent that was proposed in the NPRM (81 FR 1582, January 13, 2016) for correcting the unsafe condition; and
- Do not add any additional burden upon the public than was already proposed in the NPRM (81 FR 1582, January 13, 2016).

We also determined that these changes will not increase the economic burden on any operator or increase the scope of this AD.

**Interim Action**

GE is determining the root cause for the unsafe condition identified in this AD. Once a root cause is identified, we will consider additional rulemaking.

**Costs of Compliance**

We estimate that this AD affects 54 engines installed on airplanes of U.S. registry. We also estimate that it will take about 7 hours per engine to comply with this AD. The average labor rate is $85 per hour. We estimate one part will fail inspection at a cost of $780,000. Based on these figures, we estimate the total cost of this AD to U.S. operators to be $812,130.

**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**

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. Is not a “significant rule” under DOT Regulatory Policies and Procedures (44 FR 11034, February 26, 1979), and
3. Will not affect intrastate aviation in Alaska, and
§ 39.13 [Amended]

2. The FAA amends § 39.13 by adding the following new airworthiness directive (AD):

1694M80G04, 1844M90G01, or 1844M90G02, unless the spool has passed an ECI of the stage 8 aft web upper face as specified in paragraph (e)(1) or (e)(2) of this AD.

(d) Unsafe Condition

This AD was prompted by an uncontained failure of the HPC stage 8–10 spool. We are issuing this AD to prevent failure of the HPC stage 8–10 spool, uncontained rotor release, damage to the engine, and damage to the airplane.

(e) Compliance

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

(1) For HPC stage 8–10 spool, P/N 1694M80G04, all serial numbers (S/Ns), or HPC stage 8–10 spool, P/N 1844M90G01 or 1844M90G02, with a S/N listed in Figure 1 to paragraph (e) of this AD; perform an eddy current inspection (ECI) or ultrasonic inspection (USI) of the stage 8 aft web upper face, after reaching 8,000 cycles since new (CSN), but, before exceeding 9,000 CSN, or within 500 cycles in service after the effective date of this AD, whichever occurs later.

Figure 1 to Paragraph (e)—HPC Stage 8–10 Spool S/Ns

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1844M90G02

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</table>

(2) For all HPC stage 8–10 spools, P/N 1694M80G04, 1844M90G01, or 1844M90G02, perform an ECI of the stage 8 aft web upper face of the HPC stage 8–10 spool at each shop visit.

(3) Remove from service any HPC stage 8–10 spool that fails the inspection required by paragraphs (e)(1) or (e)(2) of this AD, and replace with a spool eligible for installation.

(f) Installation Prohibition

After the effective date of this AD, do not re-install into any engine, any HPC stage 8–10 spool, P/Ns 1694M80G04, 1844M90G01, or 1844M90G02, unless the spool has passed an ECI of the stage 8 aft web upper face as specified in paragraph (e)(1) or (e)(2) of this AD.

(h) Alternative Methods of Compliance (AMOCs)

The Manager, Engine Certification Office, FAA, may approve AMOCs for this AD. Use the procedures found in 14 CFR 39.19 to make your request. You may email your request to: ANE-AD-AMOC@faa.gov.

(i) Related Information

For more information about this AD, contact John Frost, Aerospace Engineer, Engine Certification Office, FAA, 1200 District Avenue, Burlington, MA 01803;
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Aviation Administration

14 CFR Part 71


Amendment of Class D and Class E Airspace; Charlottesville, VA

AGENCY: Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), DOT.

ACTION: Final rule.

SUMMARY: This action amends Class E Airspace Designated as an Extension to a Class D at Charlottesville-Albemarle Airport, Charlottesville, VA, as the Azalea Park Non-Directional Radio Beacon (NDB) has been decommissioned requiring airspace reconfiguration at the airport. Also, the Notice to Airmen (NOTAM) part time status is removed from this airspace. This action also updates the geographic coordinates of the above airport and the University of Virginia Medical Center Heliport in Class D and E airspace listed in this final rule. This action enhances the safety and management of Instrument Flight Rules (IFR) operations in the area.

DATES: Effective 0901 UTC, September 15, 2016. The Director of the Federal Register approves this incorporation by reference action under Title 1, Code of Federal Regulations, part 71. The Class D and E airspace area is effective during the specific dates and time established in advance by Notice to Airmen. The effective date and time will thereafter be continuously published in the Airport/Facility Directory from the regulatory text of the Class E airspace designated as an extension to Class D at Charlottesville-Albemarle Airport, Charlottesville, VA. The Azalea Park NDB has been decommissioned requiring airspace reconfiguration at the airport. This action also updates the geographic coordinates of the airport and University of Virginia Medical Center Heliport, and eliminates the NOTAM information that reads, “This Class E airspace area is effective during the specific dates and time established in advance by Notice to Airmen.”

History

On March 28, 2016, the FAA published in the Federal Register a notice of proposed rulemaking (NPRM) to amend Class D airspace, Class E Surface Area Airspace, Class E Airspace Designated as an Extension to a Class D, and Class E airspace extending upward from 700 feet above the surface at Charlottesville-Albemarle Airport, Charlottesville, VA (81 FR 17118). The Azalea Park NDB has been decommissioned requiring airspace reconfiguration at the airport. This action also updates the geographic coordinates of the airport and University of Virginia Medical Center Heliport, and eliminates the NOTAM information that reads, “This Class E airspace area is effective during the specific dates and time established in advance by Notice to Airmen.” The effective date and time will thereafter be continuously published in the Airport/Facility Directory from the regulatory text of the Class E airspace designated as an extension to Class D at Charlottesville-Albemarle Airport, Charlottesville, VA.

Regulatory Notices and Analyses

The FAA has determined that this regulation only involves an established body of technical regulations for which frequent and routine amendments are necessary to keep them operationally current. It, therefore: (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) does not warrant preparation of a

Authority for This Rulemaking

The FAA’s authority to issue rules regarding 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. This rulemaking is promulgated under the authority described in Subtitle VII, Part A, Subpart I, Section 40103. Under that section, the FAA is charged with prescribing regulations to assign the use of airspace necessary to ensure the safety of aircraft and the efficient use of airspace. This regulation is within the scope of that authority as it amends Class D and Class E airspace at Charlottesville-Albemarle Airport, Charlottesville, VA.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: John Fornito, Operations Support Group, Eastern Service Center, Federal Aviation Administration, P.O. Box 20636, Atlanta, Georgia 30320; telephone (404) 305–6364.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

This document amends FAA Order 7400.9Z, Airspace Designations and Reporting Points, is published yearly and effective on September 15.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: John Fornito, Operations Support Group, Eastern Service Center, Federal Aviation Administration, P.O. Box 20636, Atlanta, Georgia 30320; telephone (404) 305–6364.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

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