DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Aviation Administration

14 CFR Part 39


RIN 2120–AA64

Airworthiness Directives; Fokker Services B.V. Airplanes

AGENCY: Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), DOT.

ACTION: Final rule; request for comments.

SUMMARY: We are adopting a new airworthiness directive (AD) for certain Fokker Services B.V. Model F28 Mark 1000, 2000, 3000, and 4000 airplanes. This AD requires contacting the FAA to obtain instructions for addressing the unsafe condition on these products, and doing the actions specified in those instructions. This AD was prompted by reports indicating that certain exit signs have a hydrogen isotope that decays over time, causing the signs to lose their brightness. We are issuing this AD to address the unsafe condition on these products.

DATES: This AD becomes effective December 21, 2017.

We must receive comments on this AD by January 22, 2018.

ADDRESSES: You may send comments, using the procedures found in 14 CFR 11.43 and 11.45, by any of the following methods:

• Federal eRulemaking Portal: Go to http://www.regulations.gov. Follow the instructions for submitting comments.
• Fax: 202–493–2251.

Hand Delivery: U.S. Department of Transportation, Docket Operations, M–30, West Building Ground Floor, Room W12–140, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE., Washington, DC, between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays.

Exercising the AD Docket


SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Discussion

The European Aviation Safety Agency (EASA), which is the Technical Agent for the Member States of the European Union, has issued EASA AD 2012–0239, dated November 9, 2012 (referred to after this as the Mandatory Continuing Airworthiness Information, or “the MCAI”), to correct an unsafe condition for certain Fokker Services B.V. Model F28 Mark 1000, 2000, 3000, and 4000 airplanes. The MCAI states:

A number of Fokker F28 aeroplanes have exit signs installed to locate the emergency exits. A number of these signs are not electrically powered, but are self-illuminated by means of a hydrogen isotope known as Tritium. As this isotope decays over time, these signs will lose their brightness.

To remain compliant with regulations, Tritium exit signs should be replaced when their brightness has deteriorated below accepted levels. The established service life for the Tritium powered exit signs is 7 years. Currently, the Fokker F28 maintenance program does not include a replacement task for signs containing Tritium.

This condition, if not corrected, could result in insufficiently bright exit signs, possibly preventing safe evacuation during an emergency, which could result in injury to occupants.

For the reasons described above, this [EASA] AD requires replacement of all Tritium exit signs with photo-luminescent signs, which do not have an internal power source like the Tritium powered exit signs. In addition, this [EASA] AD requires repetitive maintenance tasks for the new photo-luminescent signs. [The EASA AD provides an option to revise the airplane maintenance program.] You may examine the MCAI on the Internet at http://www.regulations.gov by searching for and locating Docket No. FAA–2017–1098.

FAA’s Determination and Requirements of This AD

This product has been approved by the aviation authority of another country, and is approved for operation in the United States. Pursuant to our bilateral agreement with the State of Design Authority, we have been notified of the unsafe condition described in the
MCAI. We are issuing this AD because we evaluated all pertinent information and determined the unsafe condition exists and is likely to exist or develop on other products of the same type design.

FAA’s Determination of the Effective Date

Since there are currently no domestic operators of this product, we find good cause that notice and opportunity for prior public comment are unnecessary. In addition, for the reason(s) stated above, we find that good cause exists for making this amendment effective in less than 30 days.

Comments Invited

This AD is a final rule that involves requirements affecting flight safety, and we did not precede it by notice and opportunity for public comment. We invite you to send any written relevant data, views, or arguments about this AD. Send your comments to an address listed under the ADDRESSES section. Include “Docket No. FAA–2017–1098; Product Identifier 2012–NM–216–AD” at the beginning of your comments. We specifically invite comments on the overall regulatory, economic, environmental, and energy aspects of this AD. We will consider all comments received by the closing date and may amend this AD based on those comments.

ESTIMATED COSTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Action</th>
<th>Labor cost</th>
<th>Parts cost</th>
<th>Cost per product</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Replacement</td>
<td>1 work-hour \times $85 per hour = $85</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inspection</td>
<td>1 work-hour \times $85 per hour = $85</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>$85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maintenance program revision</td>
<td>1 work-hour \times $85 per hour = $85</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>$85</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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.

This AD is issued in accordance with authority delegated by the Executive Director, Aircraft Certification Service, as authorized by FAA Order 8000.51C. In accordance with that order, issuance of ADs is normally a function of the Compliance and Airworthiness Division, but during this transition period, the Executive Director has delegated the authority to issue ADs applicable to transport category airplanes to the Director of the System Oversight Division.

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 that 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);
3. Will not affect intrastate aviation in Alaska; and
4. 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.

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 airworthiness directive (AD):


(a) Effective Date

This AD becomes effective December 21, 2017.

(b) Affected ADs

None.

(c) Applicability

This AD applies to Fokker Services B.V. Model F28 Mark 1000, 2000, 3000, and 4000 airplanes, certificated in any category, as specified in paragraphs (c)(1) and (c)(2) of this AD.

1. Serial numbers 11029, 11030, and 11042 in pre-SBF28/33–13 Appendix V configuration.
2. Serial numbers 11006, 11012, 11016, 11018, 11020, 11024, 11027, 11028, 11032 through 11038, 11043 through 11049, 11053, 11054, 11061 thru 11087, 11089 through 11113, 11115 through 11124, 11126 through 11132, 11134, 11136 through 11202, 11204 through 11224, 11226 through 11235, 11237, 11238, 11240, 11991, and 11992.
(d) Subject
   Air Transport Association (ATA) of America Code 11, Placards and markings.

(e) Reason
   This AD was prompted by reports indicating that certain exit signs have a hydrogen isotope that decays over time, causing the signs to lose their brightness. We are issuing this AD to prevent insufficiently illuminated exit signs, which could possibly prevent safe evacuation during an emergency and cause injury to occupants.

(f) Compliance
   Comply with this AD within the compliance times specified, unless already done.

(g) Required Actions
   Within 30 days after the effective date of this AD, request instructions from the Manager, International Section, Transport Standards Branch, FAA, to address the unsafe condition specified in paragraph (e) of this AD; and accomplish the actions at the times specified in, and in accordance with, those instructions. Guidance can be found in Mandatory Continuing Airworthiness Information (MCAI) European Aviation Safety Agency (EASA) AD 2012–0239, dated November 9, 2012.

(h) Alternative Methods of Compliance (AMOCs)
   The Manager, International Section, Transport Standards 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 local Flight Standards District Office, as appropriate. If sending information directly to the International Section, send it to the attention of the person identified in paragraph (i)(2) of this AD. Information may be emailed to: 9-ANM-116-AMOC-REQUESTS@faa.gov. Before using any approved AMOC, notify your appropriate principal inspector, or lacking a principal inspector, the manager of the local flight standards district office/certificate holding district office.

(i) Related Information


(j) Material Incorporated by Reference
   None.

Issued in Renton, Washington, on November 22, 2017.

Jeffrey E. Duven,
Director, System Oversight Division, Aircraft Certification Service.

[FR Doc. 2017–26191 Filed 12–5–17; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910–13–P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Aviation Administration

14 CFR Part 71

[Docket No. FAA–2017–0295; Airspace Docket No. 16–AWP–2]

Establishment of Class E Airspace; Kaunakakai, HI

AGENCY: Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), DOT.

ACTION: Final rule, correction.

SUMMARY: This action corrects a final rule published in the Federal Register of October 11, 2017, that establishes Class E airspace and amends Class D and E airspace at Molokai Airport, Kaunakakai, HI. The airspace description for the airport in Class E airspace extending upward from 700 feet above the surface contained the following wording in error: “That airspace extending upward from the surface . . . “ It is removed and replaced by “That airspace extending upward from 700 feet above the surface . . . .”

DATES: Effective date 0901 UTC December 7, 2017. The Director of the Federal Register approves this incorporation by reference action under Title 1, Code of Federal Regulations, part 51, subject to the annual revision of FAA Order 7400.11 and publication of conforming amendments.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Tom Clark, Federal Aviation Administration, Operations Support Group, Western Service Center, 1601 Lind Avenue SW., Renton, WA 98057; telephone (425) 203–4511.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

History

The FAA published a final rule in the Federal Register (82 FR 47104, October 11, 2017) Docket No. FAA–2017–0295 establishing Class E airspace and amending Class D and Class E airspace at Molokai Airport, Kaunakakai, HI. Subsequent to publication, the FAA identified a clerical error in the legal description of the Class E airspace extending upward from 700 feet or more above the surface at Molokai Airport. This correction changes the words “. . . from the surface . . . .” to read “. . . from 700 feet above the surface . . . .”

Correction to Final Rule

Accordingly, pursuant to the authority delegated to me, in the Federal Register of October 11, 2017 (82 FR 47104) FR Doc. FR Doc. 2017–21785, Establishment of Class E Airspace and Amendment of Class D and Class E Airspaces; Kaunakakai, HI, is corrected as follows:

§71.1 [Amended]

AWP III E5 Kaunakakai, HI [Corrected]

On page 47105, column 3, lines 10 and 11, the words “That airspace extending upward from the surface” are corrected to read “That airspace extending upward from 700 feet above the surface”.


Brian J. Johnson,
Acting Manager, Operations Support Group, Western Service Center.

[FR Doc. 2017–26203 Filed 12–5–17; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910–13–P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Aviation Administration

14 CFR Part 71

[Docket No. FAA–2017–0737; Airspace Docket No. 16–ANN–12]

Establishment of Class E Airspace, Twin Bridges, MT

AGENCY: Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), DOT.

ACTION: Final rule.

SUMMARY: This action establishes Class E airspace extending upward from 700 and 1,200 feet above the surface at the Twin Bridges Airport, Twin Bridges, MT, to accommodate the development of instrument flight rules (IFR) operations under standard instrument approach and departure procedures at the airport, for the safety and management of aircraft within the National Airspace System. This action also makes a minor correction to one geographic coordinate of the airport reference point.

DATES: Effective 0901 UTC, February 1, 2018. The Director of the Federal Register approves this incorporation by reference action under Title 1, Code of Federal Regulations, part 51, subject to the annual revision of FAA Order 7400.11 and publication of conforming amendments.

ADDRESSES: FAA Order 7400.11B, Airspace Designations and Reporting Points, and subsequent amendments can...