DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
Federal Aviation Administration

14 CFR Part 39


RIN 2120–AA64

Airworthiness Directives; B/E Aerospace Fischer GmbH Attendant Seats and Pilot Seats

AGENCY: Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), DOT.

ACTION: Final rule; request for comments.

SUMMARY: We are adopting a new airworthiness directive (AD) for certain B/E Aerospace Fischer GmbH Attendant Seats NG and Pilot Seats 120/335. This AD requires removing and replacing the energy absorber (EA) assemblies on affected pilot seats and the removing and replacing affected attendant seats. This AD was prompted by the discovery that rivets with insufficient strength were used during the manufacture of EA assemblies installed on certain seats. We are issuing this AD to address the unsafe condition on these products.

DATES: This AD is effective August 31, 2018.

The Director of the Federal Register approved the incorporation by reference of a certain publication listed in this AD as of August 31, 2018. We must receive comments on this AD by October 1, 2018.

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

- 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 20590, between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays.

For service information identified in this final rule, contact B/E Aerospace Fischer GmbH, Müller-Armack-Str. 4, D–84034 Landshut, Germany; phone: +49 (0) 871 93248–0; fax: +49 (0) 871 93248–22; email: spares@fischer-seats.de. You may view this service information at the FAA, Engine & Propeller Standards 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 on the internet at http://www.regulations.gov by searching for and locating Docket No. FAA–2017–0937.

Examining the AD Docket

You may examine the AD docket on the internet at http://www.regulations.gov by searching for and locating Docket No. FAA–2017–0937; 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, the mandatory continuing airworthiness information (MCAI), the regulatory evaluation, any comments received, and other information. The street address for Docket Operations (phone: 800–647–5527) is listed above. Comments will be available in the AD docket shortly after receipt.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Dorie Resnik, Aerospace Engineer, Boston ACO Branch, FAA, 1200 District Avenue, Burlington, MA, 01803; phone: 781–238–7693; fax: 781–238–7199; email: dorie.resnik@faa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Discussion

The European Aviation Safety Agency (EASA), which is the Technical Agent for the Member States of the European Community, has issued EASA AD 2016–0210, dated October 24, 2016 (referred to after this as “the MCAI”), to address an unsafe condition for the specified products. The MCAI states:

It was discovered that rivets with insufficient strength were used during the manufacturing of EA assemblies, installed on certain seats. As a consequence, these EA assemblies may not be fully functional during an emergency landing.

This condition, if not corrected, could lead to injury of the seat occupant. To address this unsafe condition, B/E Aerospace Fischer issued Service Bulletin (SB) SB 9911–001 to provide replacement instructions.

For the reason described above, this [EASA] AD requires replacement of the EA assemblies on the affected seats.


Related Service Information Under 1 CFR Part 51

We reviewed B/E Aerospace Fischer Alert Service Bulletin (ASB) No. SB 9911–001, Issue B, dated November 4, 2016. The ASB describes procedures for removing and replacing the EA assemblies on affected pilot seats and the removing and replacing affected attendant seats. 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 the ADDRESSES section.

FAA’s Determination

This product has been approved by EASA, and is approved for operation in the United States. Pursuant to our bilateral agreement with the European Community, EASA has notified us of the unsafe condition described in the MCAI and service information referenced above. We are issuing this AD because we evaluated all the relevant information provided by EASA and determined the unsafe condition described previously is likely to exist or develop in other products of the same type design.

AD Requirements

This AD requires removing and replacing the EA assemblies on affected pilot seats and removing and replacing the affected attendant seats.

FAA’s Justification and Determination of the Effective Date

No domestic operators use this product. Therefore, we find good cause that notice and opportunity for prior public comment are unnecessary. In addition, for the reason stated above, we find that good cause exists for making this amendment effective in less than 30 days.