§ 39.13 [Amended]

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


(d) Subject

Air Transport Association of America (ATA) Code 57: Wings.

(f) Actions and Compliance

Unless already done, do the following actions:

(1) Within 12 months after November 28, 2018 (the effective date of this AD), inspect the wing strut attach bolts installed on the airplane for pitting on the shank of the wing strut attachment bolts. We are issuing this AD to detect and correct pitting and un-plated voids, which could cause a surface condition that may have a detrimental effect on fatigue and corrosion resistance, leading to bolt failure and subsequent failure of the wing.

(i) Related Information


(j) Material Incorporated by Reference

(1) The Director of the Federal Register approved the incorporation by reference (IBR) of the service information listed in this paragraph A of the Accomplishment Instructions in Viking DHC–3 Otter Service Bulletin Number: V3/0006, Revision C, dated May 16, 2018 (Viking SB V3/0006, Revision C).

(2) If pitting is found during the inspection required in paragraph (f)(1) of this AD, before further flight, replace the defective bolt with either a post MOD 3/1010 wing strut bolt (P/Ns C3W114–5, C3W128–5, and C3W129–5; or C3W114–9, C3W128–9, and C3W129–9) or a new or serviceable pre MOD 3/1010 wing strut bolt that has been inspected by following paragraph A of the Accomplishment Instructions in Viking SB V3/0006, Revision C.

(3) After November 28, 2018 (the effective date of this AD), you may continue to use pre MOD 3/1010 bolts provided these bolts are inspected for pitting immediately before installation by following paragraph A of the Accomplishment Instructions in Viking SB V3/0006, Revision C, and you document the inspection in the airplane maintenance records.

(g) Credit for Actions Accomplished in Accordance With Previous Service Information

This AD allows credit for the actions required in paragraph (f)(1) or (2) of this AD if done before November 28, 2018 (the effective date of this AD) by following Viking Service Bulletin DHC–3 Otter V3/0006 Revision NC, A, or B.

(h) Other FAA AD Provisions

The following provisions also apply to this AD:

(1) Alternative Methods of Compliance (AMOCs): The Manager, New York ACO Branch, FAA, has the authority to approve AMOCs for this AD, if requested using the procedures found in 14 CFR 39.19. Send information to ATTN: Aziz Ahmed, Aerospace Engineer, F.A.A., New York ACO Branch, 1600 Stewart Avenue, Suite 410, Westbury, New York 11590; telephone: (516) 287–7329; fax: (516) 794–5531; email: aziz.ahmed@faa.gov. Before using any approved AMOC on any airplane to which the AMOC applies, notify your appropriate principal inspector (PI) in the FAA Category Flight Standards District Office (FSDO), or lacking a PI, your local FSDO.

(2) Contacting the Manufacturer: For any requirement in this AD to obtain corrective actions from a manufacturer, the action must instead be accomplished using a method approved by the Manager, New York ACO Branch, FAA; or Transport Canada; or Viking Air Limited’s Transport Canada Design Organization Approval (DOA). If approved by the DOA, the approval must include the DOA-authorized signature.

(5) You may view this service information that is incorporated by reference at the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA). For information on the availability of this material at NARA, call 202–741–6030, or go to: http://www.archives.gov/federal-register/cfr/ibr-locations.html.

Issued in Kansas City, Missouri, on October 11, 2018.

Melvin J. Johnson,

Aircraft Certification Service, Deputy Director, Policy and Innovation Division, AIR–601.

[FR Doc. 2018–23106 Filed 10–23–18; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910–13–P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Aviation Administration

14 CFR Part 39


RIN 2120–AA64

Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes

AGENCY: Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), DOT.

ACTION: Final rule.

SUMMARY: We are superseding Airworthiness Directive (AD) 2017–01–02, which applied to certain The Boeing Company Model 787–8 and 787–9 airplanes. AD 2017–01–02 required an inspection for discrepant inboard and outboard trailing edge flap rotary actuators, and replacing the rotary actuator or doing related investigative and corrective actions if necessary. This AD continues to retain those actions. This AD also adds airplanes to the applicability and reduces the number of affected actuators. This AD was prompted by a report indicating that some inboard and outboard trailing edge flap rotary actuators may have been assembled with an incorrect no-back brake rotor-stator stack sequence during manufacturing. We are issuing this AD to address the unsafe condition on these products.

DATES: This AD is effective November 28, 2018.

The Director of the Federal Register approved the incorporation by reference of a certain publication listed in this AD as of November 28, 2018.

The Director of the Federal Register approved the incorporation by reference of a certain other publication listed in
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–2018–0078; 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 regulatory evaluation, any comments received, and other information. The address for Docket Operations (phone: 800–647–5527) is U.S. Department of Transportation, Docket Operations, M–30, West Building Ground Floor, Room W12–140, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE, Washington, DC 20590.

For Further Information Contact:
Douglas Tsuji, Senior Aerospace Engineer, Systems and Equipment Section, FAA, Seattle ACO Branch, 2200 South 216th St., Des Moines, WA 98198; phone and fax: 206–231–3548; email: douglas.tsuji@faa.gov.

Supplementary Information:

Discussion
We issued a notice of proposed rulemaking (NPRM) to amend 14 CFR part 39 to supersede AD 2017–01–02, Amendment 39–18769 (82 FR 4775, January 17, 2017) (“AD 2017–01–02”). AD 2017–01–02 applied to certain Boeing Model 787–8 and 787–9 airplanes. The NPRM published in the Federal Register on February 14, 2018 (83 FR 6477). The NPRM was prompted by a report indicating that some inboard and outboard trailing edge flap rotary actuators may have been assembled with an incorrect no-back brake rotor-stator stack sequence during manufacturing. The NPRM proposed to continue to require an inspection of the inboard and outboard trailing edge flap rotary actuator for any discrepant rotary actuator, and corrective actions if necessary. The NPRM also proposed to add airplanes to the applicability and reduce the number of affected actuators. We are issuing this AD to address incorrectly assembled rotary actuators, which could cause accelerated unit wear that will eventually reduce braking performance. This degradation could lead to loss of no-back brake function and reduced controllability of the airplane.

Comments
We gave the public the opportunity to participate in developing this AD. The following presents the comments received on the NPRM and the FAA’s response to each comment. Boeing stated that it supported the NPRM.

Request To Revise the Applicability
One commenter, Takayoshi Aimoto, requested that we revise the applicability of the NPRM. Mr. Aimoto stated that the applicability should be limited to certain Boeing Model 787–8 and 787–9 airplanes because Boeing has not installed the suspected rotary actuators on newly delivered Model 787–8 and 787–9 airplanes.

We disagree with the commenter’s request. While the number of discrepant rotary actuators are limited, these parts are considered rotatable, and they could be removed and installed on other Model 787–8 or 787–9 airplanes outside the group suspected of being delivered with the discrepant part and serial numbers. Therefore, the unsafe condition identified in the AD could exist in the future on all Model 787–8 and 787–9 airplanes. We have not changed the AD in this regard.

Request for Clarification of Part Marking Requirements
United Airlines (UAL) requested clarification of paragraph (i) of the proposed AD and whether the FAA will allow installation of applicable parts that are marked with the appropriate component service bulletin number, instead of the service bulletin number identified in paragraph (i) of the proposed AD, as specified in Task 2 of Boeing Alert Service Bulletin B787–81205–SB270032–00, Issue 003, dated July 28, 2017. UAL commented that Table 1 of paragraph 3.B., “Parts and Materials Supplied by the Operator,” of Boeing Alert Service Bulletin B787–81205–SB270032–00, Issue 003, dated July 28, 2017, states that parts supplied by the operator may be marked by the Boeing service information, or they may be marked with the component service information. UAL stated, for example, P689A0001–01 may be marked with “SB P689A0001–27–01 INCORPORATED” or “B787–81205–SB270032–00 INCORPORATED”.

UAL also commented that paragraph 2.E. of the Work Instructions of the “Part 1: Inboard and Outboard Flap Rotary Actuator” of Boeing Alert Service Bulletin B787–81205–SB270032–00, Issue 003, dated July 28, 2017, allows for listed parts marked with “SB P689A0001–27–01 INCORPORATED,” “SB P690A0001–27–01 INCORPORATED,” “SB P700A0001–27–01 INCORPORATED,” “SB CB10130–27–01 INCORPORATED,” or “B787–81205–SB270032–00 INCORPORATED.” We agree to provide clarification for the commenter. Having the additional component service information incorporated means that a discrepant part has been inspected and/or modified to ensure that it is in the acceptable configuration. Boeing Alert Service Bulletin B787–81205–SB270032–00, Issue 003, dated July 28, 2017, defines discrepant and acceptable parts. For clarification, we have revised paragraph (i) of this AD to include additional rotary actuator part markings that are acceptable for this AD.

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 change described previously, and minor editorial changes. We have determined that these minor changes:

• Are consistent with the intent that was proposed in the NPRM for addressing the unsafe condition; and
• Do not add any additional burden upon the public than was already proposed in the NPRM.

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

Related Service Information Under 1 CFR Part 51
We reviewed Boeing Alert Service Bulletin B787–81205–SB270032–00, Issue 003, dated July 28, 2017. The service information describes procedures for an inspection of the
inboard and outboard trailing edge flap rotary actuator for any discrepant rotary actuator, and related investigative and corrective actions if necessary. The related investigative actions include a functional test of the trailing edge flap no-back brake. The corrective actions include replacement of the discrepant rotary actuator with a nondiscrepant rotary actuator. 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.

**ESTIMATED COSTS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Action</th>
<th>Labor cost</th>
<th>Parts cost</th>
<th>Cost per product</th>
<th>Cost on U.S. operators</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Inspection</td>
<td>5 work-hours × $85 per hour = $425</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$425</td>
<td>$37,825</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

We estimate the following costs to do any necessary on-condition actions that would be required based on the results of the proposed inspection. We have no way of determining the number of aircraft or the number of rotary actuators (up to 8 per shipset) that might need these on-condition actions:

**ON-CONDITION 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>Check to determine flight cycles on the rotary actuator</td>
<td>1 work-hour × $85 per hour = $85</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$85 per rotary actuator.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Functional Test per rotary actuator</td>
<td>2 work-hours × $85 per hour = $170</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>$170 per rotary actuator.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Replacement per rotary actuator</td>
<td>2 work-hours × $85 per hour = $170</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>$170 per rotary actuator.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>System Test after rotary actuator replacement(s) per airplane</td>
<td>24 work-hours × $85 per hour = $2,040</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>$2,040 per airplane.</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 and associated appliances to the Director of the System Oversight Division.

**Regulatory Findings**

We have 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 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.

**Costs of Compliance**

We estimate that this AD affects 89 airplanes of U.S. registry. We estimate the following costs to comply with this AD:

**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.

2. The FAA amends § 39.13 by removing Airworthiness Directive (AD) 2017–01–02, Amendment 39–18769 (82 FR 4775, January 17, 2017), and adding the following new AD:


(a) Effective Date

This AD is effective November 28, 2018.

(b) Affected ADs


(c) Applicability

This AD applies to all The Boeing Company Model 787 series airplanes, certificated in any category.
Subject: Air Transport Association (ATA) of America Code 27, Flight control systems.

Unsafe Condition: This AD was prompted by a report indicating that some inboard and outboard trailing edge flap rotary actuators may have been assembled with an incorrect no-back brake rotor-stator stack sequence during manufacturing. We are issuing this AD to detect and replace incorrectly assembled rotary actuators, which could cause accelerated unit wear that will eventually reduce braking performance. This degradation could lead to loss of no-back brake function and reduced controllability of the airplane.

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


Credit for Previous Actions: (1) This paragraph provides credit for the actions specified in paragraph (g) of this AD, if those actions were performed before the effective date of this AD using Boeing Alert Service Bulletin B787–81205–SB270032–00, Issue 002, dated November 3, 2016.

Alternative Methods of Compliance (AMOCs): (1) The Manager, Seattle ACO 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 manager of the certification office, send it to the attention of the person identified in paragraph (l)(1) of this AD. Information may be emailed to: 9-AMN-Seattle-ACO-AMOC-Requests@faa.gov.

New Requirements: Inspection, Related Investigative and Corrective Actions: For airplanes not identified in Boeing Alert Service Bulletin B787–81205–SB270032–00, Issue 001, dated November 3, 2015, which have an Original Certificate of Airworthiness or Export Certificate of Airworthiness with a date on or before the effective date of this AD, do an inspection of the inboard and outboard trailing edge flap rotary actuator for any discrepant rotary actuator, in accordance with the Accomplishment Instructions of Boeing Alert Service Bulletin B787–81205–SB270032–00, Issue 003, dated July 28, 2017. If any discrepant rotary actuator is found, within 60 months after the effective date of this AD, do the actions specified in paragraph (h)(1) or (h)(2) of this AD, in accordance with the Accomplishment Instructions of Boeing Alert Service Bulletin B787–81205–SB270032–00, Issue 003, dated July 28, 2017.

(1) Replace the discrepant rotary actuator.
(2) Check the maintenance records to determine the flight cycles of each discrepant rotary actuator and, within 60 months after the effective date of this AD, do all applicable related investigative and corrective actions.


Credit for Previous Actions: (1) This paragraph provides credit for the actions specified in paragraph (g) of this AD, if those actions were performed before the effective date of this AD using Boeing Alert Service Bulletin B787–81205–SB270032–00, Issue 003, dated July 28, 2017, unless the actuator has been permanently marked in accordance with Task 2 of Boeing Alert Service Bulletin B787–81205–SB270032–00, Issue 003, dated July 28, 2017, with "B787–81205–SB270032–00 INCORPORATED." Rotary actuators marked with "SB P689A0001–27–01 INCORPORATED," "SB P690A0001–27–01 INCORPORATED," "SB CB1030–27–01 INCORPORATED," or "SB CB1030–27–01 INCORPORATED" are also acceptable.

Alternative Methods of Compliance (AMOCs): (1) The Manager, Seattle ACO 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 manager of the certification office, send it to the attention of the person identified in paragraph (l)(1) of this AD. Information may be emailed to: 9-AMN-Seattle-ACO-AMOC-Requests@faa.gov.

New Requirements: Inspection, Related Investigative and Corrective Actions: For airplanes not identified in Boeing Alert Service Bulletin B787–81205–SB270032–00, Issue 001, dated November 3, 2015, which have an Original Certificate of Airworthiness or Export Certificate of Airworthiness with a date on or before the effective date of this AD, do an inspection of the inboard and outboard trailing edge flap rotary actuator for any discrepant rotary actuator, in accordance with the Accomplishment Instructions of Boeing Alert Service Bulletin B787–81205–SB270032–00, Issue 003, dated July 28, 2017. If any discrepant rotary actuator is found, within 60 months after the effective date of this AD, do the actions specified in paragraph (h)(1) or (h)(2) of this AD, in accordance with the Accomplishment Instructions of Boeing Alert Service Bulletin B787–81205–SB270032–00, Issue 003, dated July 28, 2017.

(1) Replace the discrepant rotary actuator.
(2) Check the maintenance records to determine the flight cycles of each discrepant rotary actuator and, within 60 months after the effective date of this AD, do all applicable related investigative and corrective actions.

Related Information: (1) For more information about this AD, contact Douglas Tsuji, Senior Aerospace Engineer, Systems and Equipment Section, FAA, Seattle ACO Branch, 2200 South 216th St., Des Moines, WA 98198; phone and fax: 206–231–3548; email: douglas.tsuji@faa.gov.

Material Incorporated by Reference: (1) For service information identified in this AD that is not incorporated by reference is available at the addresses specified in paragraphs (m)(5) and (m)(6) of this AD.

Branch, FAA, to make those findings. To be approved, the repair method, modification deviation, or alteration deviation must meet the certification basis of the airplane, and the approval must specifically refer to this AD.

AMOCs approved previously for AD 2017–01–02 are approved as AMOCs for the corresponding provisions of this AD.

For service information that contains steps that are labeled as Required for Compliance (RC), the provisions of paragraphs (k)(5)(i) and (k)(5)(ii) of this AD apply.

The steps labeled as RC, including substeps under an RC step and any figures identified in an RC step, must be done to comply with the AD. If a step or substep is labeled “RC Exempt,” then the RC requirement is removed from that step or substep. An AMOC is required for any deviations to RC steps, including substeps and identified figures.

Steps not labeled as RC may be deviated from using accepted industry practices in accordance with the operator’s maintenance or inspection program without obtaining approval of an AMOC, provided the RC steps, including substeps and identified figures, can still be done as specified, and the airplane can be put back in an airworthy condition.

Related Information: (1) For more information about this AD, contact Douglas Tsuji, Senior Aerospace Engineer, Systems and Equipment Section, FAA, Seattle ACO Branch, 2200 South 216th St., Des Moines, WA 98198; phone and fax: 206–231–3548; email: douglas.tsuji@faa.gov.


You may view this service information at FAA, Transport Standards Branch, 2200 South 216th St., Des Moines, WA. For information on the availability of this material at the FAA, call 206–231–3195.
Federal Register / Vol. 83, No. 206 / Wednesday, October 24, 2018 / Rules and Regulations 53573

(7) You may view this service information that is incorporated by reference at the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA). For information on the availability of this material at NARA, call 202–741–6030, or go to: http://www.archives.gov/federal-register/cfr/ibr-locations.html.

Issued in Des Moines, Washington, on October 12, 2018.

Michael Kaszycki,
Acting Director, System Oversight Division, Aircraft Certification Service.

[FR Doc. 2018–23036 Filed 10–23–18; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 4910–13–P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Aviation Administration

14 CFR Part 39


Airworthiness Directives; Glasflugel Gilders

AGENCY: Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), DOT.

ACTION: Final rule; request for comments.

SUMMARY: We are adopting a new airworthiness directive (AD) for Glasflugel Models Club Libelle 205, H 301 “Libelle,” H 301B “Libelle,” Kestrel, Mosquito, Standard “Libelle,” and Standard Libelle-201B gliders. This AD results from mandatory continuing airworthiness information (MCAI) issued by the aviation authority of another country to identify and correct an unsafe condition on an aviation product. The MCAI describes the unsafe condition as jamming between the double two-ring end of the towing cable and the deflector angles of the center of gravity (C.G.) release mechanism. We are issuing this AD to require actions to address the unsafe condition on these products.

DATES: This AD is effective November 13, 2018.

The Director of the Federal Register approved the incorporation by reference of a certain publication listed in the AD as of November 13, 2018.

We must receive comments on this AD by December 10, 2018.

ADDRESSES: You may send comments 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 20590, between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays.

For service information identified in this AD, contact Glasfaser Flugzeug-Service GmbH, Hansjörg Streifeneder, Hofener Weg 61, 72582 Grabenstetten, Germany; phone: +49 (0)7382/1032; fax: +49 (0)7382/1629; email: info@streifly.de; internet: http://www.streifly.de/kontakt-e.htm. You may view this referenced service information at the FAA, Policy and Innovation, 901 Locust, Kansas City, Missouri 64106. For information on the availability of this material at the FAA, call (816) 329–4148. It is also available on the internet at http://www.regulations.gov by searching for locating Docket No. FAA–2018–0891.

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–2018–0891; or in person at Docket Operations, Tower Bldg., 400 Fourth Street, SW., Washington, DC 20590; between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays. The AD docket contains this AD, the regulatory evaluation, any comments received, and other information. The street address for Docket Operations (telephone (800) 647–5527) is in the ADDRESSES section. Comments will be available in the AD docket shortly after receipt.

For further information contact: Jim Rutherford, Aerospace Engineer, FAA, Policy and Innovation Division, 901 Locust, Room 301, Kansas City, Missouri 64106; telephone: (816) 329–4165; fax: (816) 329–4090; email: jim.rutherford@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 AD No. 2018–0143–E, dated July 6, 2018 (referred to after this as “the MCAI”), to correct an unsafe condition for the specified products. The MCAI states:

Jamming between the double two ring end of the towing cable and the deflector angles of the C.G. release mechanism was reported. Subsequent investigation identified incorrect geometry of the deflector angles of the affected part as likely cause of the jamming.

This condition, if not detected and corrected, could lead to failure to disconnect the towing cable, possibly resulting in reduced or loss of control of the sailplane.

To address this potential unsafe condition, Glasfaser Flugzeug-Service GmbH issued the TN [Technical Note] to provide inspection instructions and corrective action.

For the reasons described above, this [EASA] AD requires repetitive inspections of the affected part, and, depending on findings, accomplishment of applicable corrective action(s). This [EASA] AD also requires amendment of the sailplane Aircraft Flight Manual (AFM).


Record of Ex Parte Communication

In preparation of AD actions, such as notices of proposed rulemaking and immediately adopted final rules, the FAA obtains technical data and information on the operational and economic impact from design approval holders and aircraft operators. We discussed certain aspects of this AD by email with Glasfaser Flugzeug-Service GmbH. You may find a copy of each email contact in the rulemaking docket. For information on locating the docket, see “Examining the AD Docket.”

Related Service Information Under 1 CFR Part 51

We reviewed Glasfaser–Flugzeug–Service GmbH Technical Note No. 5–2018, dated June 25, 2018. The service information describes procedures for measuring the distance between the deflector-angles at the C.G. release and modifying the deflector-angles if necessary. 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 and Requirements of the 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 this State of Design Authority, they have notified us of the unsafe condition described in the MCAI and service information referenced above. We are issuing this AD because we evaluated all information provided by the State of Design Authority and determined the unsafe condition exists and is likely to exist or develop on other products of the same type design.