

Rules and Regulations

Federal Register

Vol. 63, No. 199

Thursday, October 15, 1998

This section of the FEDERAL REGISTER contains regulatory documents having general applicability and legal effect, most of which are keyed to and codified in the Code of Federal Regulations, which is published under 50 titles pursuant to 44 U.S.C. 1510.

The Code of Federal Regulations is sold by the Superintendent of Documents. Prices of new books are listed in the first FEDERAL REGISTER issue of each week.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyard Administration

7 CFR Part 800

General Regulations

CFR Correction

In Title 7 of the Code of Federal Regulations, parts 700 to 899, revised as of Jan. 1, 1998, page 456, § 800.0 paragraph (b)(59) is corrected to read as follows:

§ 800.0 Meaning of terms.

* * * * *

(b) * * *

(59) *Official agency.* Any State or local government agency, or any person, designated by the Administrator pursuant to subsection (f) of section 7 of the Act for the conduct of official inspection (other than appeal inspection), or subsection (c) of section 7A of the Act for the conduct of Class X or Class Y weighing (other than review of weighing).

* * * * *

BILLING CODE 1505-01-D

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Aviation Administration

14 CFR Part 39

[Docket No. 98-CE-88-AD; Amendment 39-10844; AD 98-21-21]

RIN 2120-AA64

Airworthiness Directives; Bob Fields Aerocessories Inflatable Door Seals

AGENCY: Federal Aviation Administration, DOT.

ACTION: Final rule; request for comments.

SUMMARY: This document publishes in the **Federal Register** an amendment adopting Airworthiness Directive (AD) 98-21-21, which was sent previously to all known U.S. owners and operators of aircraft equipped with Bob Fields Aerocessories inflatable door seals installed in accordance with the applicable supplemental type certificate (STC). These inflatable door seals could also be installed on aircraft through field approval. This AD requires either de-activating the electric door seal inflation system; fabricating and installing a placard specifying that the system is inoperative; and inserting a copy of the AD into the Limitations Section of the airplane flight manual (AFM); or removing all provisions of the Bob Fields Aerocessories inflatable door seals installation, and installing original equipment manufacturer door seals or an FAA-approved equivalent that is of different design than the referenced Bob Fields Aerocessories inflatable door seals. The AD resulted from occurrences of overheated components associated with the electric door seal inflation system on aircraft equipped with the affected inflatable door seals. The actions specified by this AD are intended to prevent smoke and a possible fire in the cockpit caused by overheating of the electric door seal inflation systems, which could result in passenger injury.

DATES: Effective October 30, 1998, to all persons except those to whom it was made immediately effective by priority letter AD 98-21-21, issued October 2, 1998, which contained the requirements of this amendment.

Comments for inclusion in the Rules Docket must be received on or before December 13, 1998.

ADDRESSES: Submit comments in triplicate to the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), Central Region, Office of the Regional Counsel, Attention: Rules Docket 98-CE-88-AD, Room 1558, 601 E. 12th Street, Kansas City, Missouri 64106.

Information related to this AD may be examined at the FAA at the address referenced above.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Paul S. Wells, Jr., Aerospace Engineer, FAA, Los Angeles Aircraft Certification Office, 3960 Paramount Boulevard, Lakewood, California 90712; telephone: (562) 627-5354; facsimile: (562) 627-5210.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Discussion

On October 2, 1998, the FAA issued priority letter AD 98-21-21, which applies to aircraft equipped with Bob Fields Aerocessories inflatable door seals installed in accordance with either the applicable supplemental type certificate (STC) or through field approval. This AD requires either:

- de-activating the electric door seal inflation system; fabricating and installing a placard specifying that the system is inoperative; and inserting a copy of the AD into the Limitations Section of the airplane flight manual (AFM); or
- removing all provisions of the Bob Fields Aerocessories inflatable door seals installation, and installing original equipment manufacturer door seals or an FAA-approved equivalent that is of different design than the referenced Bob Fields Aerocessories inflatable door seals.

That AD resulted from numerous reported occurrences of overheated components associated with the electric door seal inflation system on aircraft equipped with Bob Fields Aerocessories inflatable door seals installed in accordance with the applicable supplemental type certificate (STC).

One of the above-referenced occurrences resulted in a safety recommendation from the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB). In this incident, an in-flight electrical fire caused the pilot of a Cessna Model P210N to initiate an emergency descent with a successful landing and only minor airplane damage. NTSB investigation revealed that the fire originated on the cabin sidewall, under the left side of the instrument panel and resulted in burned vinyl, plastic, and insulation material. An overheated resistor used in an electric door seal inflation system caused the fire. The resistor was used to reduce the 28-volt aircraft electrical system's voltage to meet the power requirements of the door seal system's 14-volt air pump motor.

The inflatable door seals on this airplane were installed in accordance with STC SA4212WE, which the FAA issued to Bob Fields Aerocessories. The purpose of the seals is to decrease in-flight cabin noise caused by ill-fitting cabin doors. The FAA has issued