(4) You may also review copies of the service information incorporated by reference for this AD 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/code_of_federal_regulations/ibr_locations.html.

Issued in Kansas City, Missouri, on May 10, 2011.

Earl Lawrence,
Manager, Small Airplane Directorate, Aircraft Certification Service.

[FRL Doc. 2011–11932 Filed 5–17–11; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910–13–P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
Federal Aviation Administration

14 CFR Part 39


RIN 2120–AA64

Airworthiness Directives; Eurocopter France Model AS350B, B1, B2, B3, BA, and EC130 B4 Helicopters

AGENCY: Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), Department of Transportation (DOT).

ACTION: Final rule.

SUMMARY: We are adopting a new airworthiness directive (AD) for the specified Eurocopter France (ECF) helicopters. This AD results from a mandatory continuing airworthiness information (MCAI) AD issued by the aviation authority of the European Aviation Safety Agency (EASA), which is the Technical Agent for the Member States of the European Community. The superseding MCAI AD states that several engine flameouts have involved failure of the 41-tooth pinion in the engine accessory gearbox. Each affected helicopter had a starter-generator manufactured by one company. Investigation revealed the torque damping system of the starter-generator was inoperative due to incorrect adjustment that caused bending stresses on the 41-tooth pinion. Failure of the pinion causes the engine fuel pump to stop operating, resulting in an engine flameout. The EASA AD requires a new adjustment procedure to optimize the performance of the specified starter-generator damping assembly. This AD is intended to prevent failure of a pinion and a fuel pump, engine flameout, and subsequent loss of control of the helicopter.

DATES: This AD becomes effective on June 22, 2011.

The incorporation by reference of certain publications is approved by the Director of the Federal Register as of June 22, 2011.

ADDRESSES: You may examine the AD docket on the Internet at http://regulations.gov or in person at the Docket Operations office, U.S. Department of Transportation, 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.


Examination of the AD Docket: The AD docket contains this Final rule, the Notice of proposed rulemaking (NPRM), the economic evaluation, any comments received, and other information. The street address and operating hours for the Docket Operations office (telephone 800–647–5527) are in the ADDRESSES section of this AD. Comments will be available in the AD docket shortly after they are received.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:
Discussion
We issued an NPRM to amend 14 CFR part 39 to include an AD that would apply to the specified ECF helicopters on December 6, 2010. That NPRM was published in the Federal Register on December 21, 2010 (75 FR 79988). That NPRM proposed to require within 110 hours time-in-service or 3 months, whichever occurs first:

• Modifying and marking the Aircraft Parts Corporation (APC) starter generator; and

• Before installing an APC starter-generator with a part number (P/N) of 1505G122Q or 2005GL130Q, complying with the requirements of the proposed AD.
You may obtain further information by examining the MCAI AD and any related service information in the AD docket.

Comments
By publishing the NPRM, we gave the public an opportunity to participate in
developing this AD. However, we received no comment on the NPRM or on our determination of the cost to the public. Therefore, based on our review and evaluation of the available data, we have determined that air safety and the public interest require adopting the AD as proposed.

Related Service Information

ECF has issued Alert Service Bulletin (ASB) No. 80.00.07, Revision 1, dated February 6, 2009, for the Model AS350B, BA, BB, B1, B2, and B3 helicopters; and ASB No. 80A003, Revision 1, dated February 6, 2009, for the Model EC130 B4 helicopters. The Model AS350 BB helicopter is not type certified in the United States. These ASBs specify disassembly of the damping system, replacing the Belleville springs (cup springs) and the self-locking nut, and aligning the shaft damping system of the APC starter-generator.

The actions described in the MCAI AD are intended to correct the same unsafe condition as that identified in the service information.

Differences Between This AD and the MCAI AD

The MCAI AD refers to flight hours instead of hours time-in-service.

Costs of Compliance

We estimate that this AD will affect about 847 helicopters. We also estimate that it will take about 3 work-hours per helicopter to modify the starter-generator. The average labor rate is $85 per work-hour. ECF states in its ASBs that one nut (P/N 150SGL1071, $36.12) and two springs (P/N 150SGL1093, $29.14 each) are required for the P/N 150SGL122Q starter-generator and one nut (P/N 150SGL1071, $36.12) and two springs (P/N 200SGL1093, $33.64 each) are required for the P/N 200SGL130Q starter-generator. Based on these figures, we estimate the cost of this AD on U.S. operators to be $299,749 ($215,985 for labor and $83,764 for parts), assuming both starter-generators are evenly distributed in the fleet and that the entire fleet is modified.

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 helicopters identified in this rulemaking action.

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.

Therefore, I certify 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); and
3. 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.

We prepared an economic evaluation of the estimated costs to comply with this AD and placed it in the AD docket.

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

§ 39.13 [Amended]

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 AD:

2011–10–12 Eurocopter France:

Amendment 39–16693; Docket No. FAA–2010–1228; Directorate Identifier 2009–SW–12–AD.

Effective Date

(a) This airworthiness directive (AD) becomes effective on June 22, 2011.

Other Affected ADs

(b) None.

Applicability

(c) This AD applies to Model AS350B, B1, B2, B3, BA, and EC130 B4 helicopters with ARRIEL engines with Aircraft Parts Corporation (APC) starter-generators, part number (P/N) 150SGL122Q or P/N 200SGL130Q, without “004” marked on the identification plate, installed, certified in any category.

Reason

(d) The mandatory continuing airworthiness information (MCAI) AD states that several engine flameouts involved failure of the 41-tooth pinion in the engine accessory gearbox that caused the engine fuel pump to fail. Each affected helicopter had an APC (currently UNISON) starter-generator installed. Investigation revealed the torque damping system of the starter-generator was inoperative. The EASA AD requires a new adjustment procedure to optimize the performance of the specified starter-generator damping assembly. The required actions are intended to prevent failure of a pinion and a fuel pump, engine flameout, and subsequent loss of control of the helicopter.

Actions and Compliance

(e) Within 110 hours time-in-service (TIS) or 3 months, whichever occurs first, unless already accomplished, do the following:

1. Replace the cup springs and fan nut, functionally test the damping system, and after this modification, mark “004” on the identification plate of the APC starter-generator, as depicted in Figures 1 and 2, and by following the Accomplishment Instructions, paragraph 2.B.2., of Eurocopter Alert Service Bulletin (ASB) No. 80.00.07, Revision 1, dated February 6, 2009, for the Model AS350B, BA, B1, B2, and B3 helicopters; or ASB No. 80A003, Revision 1, dated February 6, 2009, for the Model EC130 B4 helicopter.

2. Before installing an APC starter-generator with P/N 150SGL122Q or P/N 200SGL130Q, comply with the requirements of this AD.

Differences Between This AD and the MCAI AD

(f) The MCAI AD refers to flight hours instead of hours time-in-service.

Other Information

(g) Alternative Methods of Compliance (AMOCs): The Manager, Safety Management Group, Attn: DOT/FAA Southwest Region, Ed Cuevas, ASW–112, Aviation Safety Engineer, Rotorcraft Directorate, Safety Management Group, 2601 Meacham Blvd., Fort Worth, Texas 76137, telephone 817–222–5355, fax 817–222–5961, has the authority to approve AMOCs for this AD, if requested using the procedures found in 14 CFR 39.19.

Related Information

During production quality inspections of the aeroplane fuel motive flow system, it was discovered that some motive flow check valves (MFCV) were manufactured with an outlet fitting containing red anodized threads. These MFCV do not provide adequate electrical bonding between the valve and the adjacent fitting.

In the absence of proper electrical bonding within the motive flow system, the aeroplane fuel tank could be exposed to ignition sources in the case of a lightning strike.

* * * * *

The unsafe condition is the potential for ignition sources inside the fuel tanks, which, in combination with flammable fuel vapors, could result in a fuel tank explosion and consequent loss of the airplane. We are issuing this AD to require actions to correct the unsafe condition on these products.

DATES: This AD becomes effective June 22, 2011.

The Director of the Federal Register approved the incorporation by reference of a certain publication listed in this AD as of June 22, 2011.

ADDRESSES: You may examine the AD docket on the Internet at http://www.regulations.gov or in person at the U.S. Department of Transportation, Docket Operations, M–30, West Building Ground Floor, Room W12–140, 1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE., Washington, DC.


SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Discussion

We issued a notice of proposed rulemaking (NPRM) to amend 14 CFR part 39 to include an AD that would apply to the specified products. That NPRM was published in the Federal Register on February 23, 2011 (76 FR 9982). The MCAI states:

During production quality inspections of the aeroplane fuel motive flow system, it was discovered that some motive flow check valves (MFCV) were manufactured with an outlet fitting containing red anodized threads. These MFCV do not provide adequate electrical bonding between the valve and the adjacent fitting.

In the absence of proper electrical bonding within the motive flow system, the aeroplane fuel tank could be exposed to ignition sources in the case of a lightning strike.

* * * * *

The unsafe condition is the potential for ignition sources inside the fuel tanks, which, in combination with flammable fuel vapors, could result in a fuel tank explosion and consequent loss of the airplane. You may obtain further information by examining the MCAI in the AD docket.

Comments

We gave the public the opportunity to participate in developing this AD. We received no comments on the NPRM or on the determination of the cost to the public.

Conclusion

We reviewed the available data and determined that air safety and the public interest require adopting the AD as proposed.

Costs of Compliance

Based on the service information, we estimate that this AD affects about 67 products of U.S. registry. We also estimate that it takes about 33 work-hours per product to comply with the basic requirements of this AD. The average labor rate is $85 per work-hour. Required parts will cost about $130 per product. Based on these figures, we estimate the cost of the AD on U.S. operators to be $196,645, or $2,935 per product.

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

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