For service information identified in this proposed AD, contact Boeing Commercial Airplanes, Attention: Data & Services Management, P.O. Box 3707, MC 2H–65, Seattle, WA 98124–2207; telephone 206–544–5000, extension 1; fax 206–766–5680; Internet https://www.myboeingfleet.com. You may review copies of the referenced service information at the FAA, Transport Airplane Directorate, 1601 Lind Avenue SW., Renton, WA. For information on the availability of this material at the FAA, call 425–227–1221.

Examining the AD Docket
You may examine the AD docket on the Internet at http://www.regulations.gov; or in person at the Docket Management Facility at the Docket Operations Office: 20431 Chain Bridge Road, Room G–Concourse, Arlington, VA 22206; or from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays. Comments will be available in the AD docket shortly after receipt.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:
Comments Invited
We invite you to send any written relevant data, views, or arguments about this proposal. Send your comments to an address listed under the ADDRESSES section. Include “Docket No. FAA–2012–1318; Directorate Identifier 2012–NM–104–AD” at the beginning of your comments. We specifically invite comments on the overall regulatory, economic, environmental, and energy aspects of this proposed AD. We will consider all comments received by the closing date and may amend this proposed AD because of those comments.

We will post all comments we receive, without change, to http://www.regulations.gov, including any personal information you provide. We will also post a report summarizing each substantive verbal contact we receive about this proposed AD.

Discussion
We have received multiple reports of failure of the short flexshaft of the TRAS on Model 747 and 767 airplanes powered with GE CF6–80C2 engines. The TRAS brake was installed as a third lock to prevent an uncommanded thrust reverser deployment on Model 747 and 767 airplanes powered by GE CF6–80C2 engines. The failed short flexshafts were found to have cores that had become sheared and unbraided. A new short flexshaft design has been developed that incorporates a better end fitting attachment and a larger core diameter with the core wound specifically for use on a left and right thrust reverser half to increase its resistance to failure. We are proposing this AD to prevent an uncommanded in-flight thrust reverser deployment and consequent loss of control of the airplane.

Other Related Rulemaking


Relevant Service Information
We reviewed Boeing Alert Service Bulletin 747–78A2185, dated October 26, 2010; and Boeing Alert Service Bulletin 767–78A0100, dated October 26, 2010. This service information describes procedures for replacing the short flexshaft of each thrust reverser
We reviewed Boeing Service Bulletin 747–78A2166, Revision 3, dated July 29, 2004 (for Model 747 airplanes); Boeing Alert Service Bulletin 767–78A0081, Revision 2, dated April 19, 2001 (for Model 767–200, –300, and –300F airplanes); and Boeing Alert Service Bulletin 767–78A0088, dated April 19, 2001 (for Model 767–400ER airplanes). This service information describes a functional test of the electro-mechanical brake and CDU cone brake to verify the holding torque, and related investigative and corrective actions if necessary.

The related investigative action for the electro-mechanical brake is a general visual inspection of the short flexshaft for twisting, breaking, or other damage. The corrective action for the electro-mechanical brake is replacement of the long flexshaft between the CDU and the upper angle gearbox with a new flexshaft; replacement of the short flexshaft between the upper angle gearbox and the electro-mechanical brake with a new flexshaft; and replacement of the electromechanical brake with a new electromechanical brake if the required torque value cannot be reached after the previous flexshaft replacements.

The corrective action for a CDU cone brake test failure is replacement of the CDU cone brake with a new CDU cone brake.

<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>Replacement Model 747 airplanes (72 airplanes).</td>
<td>8 work-hours × $85 per hour = $680 ..........</td>
<td>$15,244</td>
<td>$15,924</td>
<td>$1,146,528</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Replacement Model 767 airplanes (226 airplanes).</td>
<td>4 work-hours × $85 per hour = $340 ..........</td>
<td>7,622</td>
<td>7,962</td>
<td>1,799,412</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Functional test Model 747 airplanes (72 airplanes).</td>
<td>12 work-hours × $85 per hour = $1,020 ......</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1,020</td>
<td>73,440</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Functional test Model 767 airplanes (226 airplanes).</td>
<td>12 work-hours × $85 per hour = $1,020 ......</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1,020</td>
<td>230,520</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

We have received no definitive data that would enable us to provide cost estimates for the on-condition actions specified in this proposed AD.

**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 proposed AD would not have federalism implications under Executive Order 13132. This proposed AD would 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 this proposed regulation:

(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.

**The Proposed Amendment**

Accordingly, under the authority delegated to me by the Administrator, the FAA proposes to amend 14 CFR part 39 as follows:

**FAA’s Determination**

We are proposing this AD because we evaluated all the relevant information and determined the unsafe condition described previously is likely to exist or develop in other products of these same type designs.

**Proposed AD Requirements**

This proposed AD would require accomplishing the actions specified in the service information described previously.

**Costs of Compliance**

We estimate that this proposed AD affects 298 airplanes of U.S. registry. We estimate the following costs to comply with this proposed AD:

**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 adding the following new airworthiness directive (AD):


   (a) Comments Due Date

   We must receive comments by March 4, 2013.

   (b) Affected ADs


   (c) Applicability

   This AD applies to The Boeing Company airplanes, certificated in any category, powered by General Electric (GE) CF6–80C2 engines, as identified in paragraphs (c)(1) and (c)(2) of this AD.


d) Subject
Joint Aircraft System Component (JASC)/Air Transport Association (ATA) of America Code 7830, Thrust reverser.

(e) Unsafe Condition
This AD was prompted by reports of failure of the electro-mechanical brake flex shaft (short flexshaft) of the thrust reverser actuation system (TRAS). We are issuing this AD to prevent an uncommanded in-flight thrust reverser deployment and consequent loss of control of the airplane.

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

(g) Flexible Drive Shaft Replacement
Within 60 months after the effective date of this AD, replace the short flexshaft on each thrust reverser half of each engine with a new short flexshaft, in accordance with the Accomplishment Instructions of Boeing Alert Service Bulletin 747–78A2185, dated October 26, 2010; or Boeing Alert Service Bulletin 767–78A0100, dated October 26, 2010, as applicable.

(h) Functional Test
Within 2,000 flight hours after accomplishment of the short flexshaft replacement required by paragraph (g) of this AD: Do a functional test on the electro-mechanical brakes and the cone brake of the center drive unit (CDU) to verify the holding torque, on all thrust reversers and on all engines, in accordance with the Accomplishment Instructions of Boeing Service Bulletin 747–78A2166, Revision 3, dated July 29, 2004 (for Model 747 airplanes); Boeing Alert Service Bulletin 767–78A0081, Revision 2, dated April 19, 2001 (for Model 767–200, –300, and –300F airplanes); or Boeing Alert Service Bulletin 767–78A0088, dated April 19, 2001 (for Model 767–400ER airplanes). Repeat the functional test thereafter at intervals not to exceed 2,000 flight hours.

(i) Corrective Action
If any functional test required by paragraph (h) of this AD fails: Before further flight, do related investigative and corrective actions, in accordance with the Accomplishment Instructions of Boeing Service Bulletin 747–78A2166, Revision 3, dated July 29, 2004 (for Model 747 airplanes); Boeing Alert Service Bulletin 767–78A0081, Revision 2, dated April 19, 2001 (for Model 767–200, –300, and –300F airplanes); or Boeing Alert Service Bulletin 767–78A0088, dated April 19, 2001 (for Model 767–400ER airplanes); and repeat the applicable test or check until successfully accomplished.

(j) Terminating Actions
(1) Accomplishment of the initial test specified in paragraph (h) of this AD terminates the requirements of paragraph (e) of AD 2000–15–04, Amendment 39–11833 (65 FR 47252, August 2, 2000).

(2) Accomplishment of the initial test specified in paragraph (h) of this AD terminates the requirements of paragraph (f) of AD 2000–09–04, Amendment 39–11712 (65 FR 25833, May 4, 2000).

(k) Parts Installation Prohibition
As of the effective date of this AD, no person may install a flexshaft having part number 3278500–( ) on any airplane.

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

(2) 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.

(3) An AMOC that provides an acceptable level of safety may be used for any repair required by this AD if it is approved by the Boeing Commercial Airplanes Organization Designation Authorization (ODA) that has been authorized by the Manager, Seattle ACO, to make those findings. For a repair method to be approved, the repair must meet the certification basis of the airplane, and the approval must specifically refer to this AD.

(m) Related Information
(1) For more information about this AD, contact Tung Tran, Aerospace Engineer, Propulsion Branch, AM–1405, Seattle Aircraft Certification Office (ACO), FAA, 1601 Lind Avenue SW., Renton, WA 98057–3356; phone: 425–917–6505; fax: 425–917–6590; email: Tung.Tran@faa.gov.

(2) For service information identified in this AD, contact Boeing Commercial Airplanes, Attention: Data & Services Management, P.O. Box 3707, MC 2H–65, Seattle, WA 98124–2207; telephone 206–544–5000, extension 1; fax 206–766–5680; Internet https://www.myboeingfleet.com. You may review copies of the referenced service information at the FAA, Transport Airplane Directorate, 1601 Lind Avenue SW., Renton, WA. For information on the availability of this material at the FAA, call 425–227–1221.

Issued in Renton, Washington, on January 10, 2013.

Kalene C. Yanamura,
Acting Manager, Transport Airplane Directorate, Aircraft Certification Service.
[FR Doc. 2013–00803 Filed 1–15–13; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 4910–13–P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
Federal Aviation Administration

14 CFR Part 39

[Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes]

AGENCY: Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), DOT.

ACTION: Notice of proposed rulemaking (NPRM).

SUMMARY: We propose to adopt a new airworthiness directive (AD) for certain The Boeing Company Airplanes Model 737–100, –200, –200C, –300, –400, –500, –600, –700, –700C, –800, and –900 series airplanes. This proposed AD was prompted by a report that the seat track attachment of body station 520 flexible joint is structurally deficient in resisting a 9g forward emergency load condition in certain seating configurations. This proposed AD would require replacing the pivot link assembly on certain seats, and modifying or replacing the seat track link assemblies on certain seats. Also, for certain airplanes, this proposed AD would require installing a new seat track link assembly. We are proposing this AD to prevent seat detachment in an emergency landing, which could cause injury to occupants of the passenger compartment and affect emergency egress.

DATES: We must receive comments on this proposed AD by March 4, 2013.

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: Deliver to Mail address above between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays.

For service information identified in this proposed AD, contact Boeing Commercial Airplanes, Attention: Data & Services Management, P. O. Box 3707, MC 2H–65, Seattle, WA 98124–2207; telephone 206–544–5000, extension 1; fax 206–766–5680; Internet https://www.myboeingfleet.com. You may