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**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**

**Federal Aviation Administration**

**14 CFR Part 39**

**[Docket No. FAA-2011-0476; Directorate Identifier 2010-NM-247-AD; Amendment 39-16787; AD 2011-18-05]**

**RIN 2120-AA64**

**Airworthiness Directives; Saab AB, Saab Aerosystems Model SAAB 2000 Airplanes**

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

**ACTION:** Final rule.

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**SUMMARY:** We are adopting a new airworthiness directive (AD) for the products listed above. This AD results from mandatory continuing airworthiness information (MCAI) originated by an aviation authority of another country to identify and correct an unsafe condition on an aviation product. The MCAI describes the unsafe condition as:

Corrosion damage has been found on the aft pressure bulkhead of SAAB 2000 aeroplanes, located on the rear side of the bulkhead at the bottom outboard flange. Corrosion damage in this area can become the starting point for future crack initiation and propagation.

This condition, if not detected and corrected, could affect the structural integrity of the aft pressure bulkhead, possibly resulting in in-flight decompression of the fuselage and injury to occupants.

\* \* \* \* \*

We are issuing this AD to require actions to correct the unsafe condition on these products.

**DATES:** This AD becomes effective September 30, 2011.

The Director of the Federal Register approved the incorporation by reference of a certain publication listed in this AD as of September 30, 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.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Shahram Daneshmandi, Aerospace Engineer, International Branch, ANM-116, Transport Airplane Directorate, FAA, 1601 Lind Avenue, SW., Renton, Washington 98057-3356; telephone (425) 227-1112; fax (425) 227-1149.

## **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 June 1, 2011 (76 FR 31508). That NPRM proposed to correct an unsafe condition for the specified products. The MCAI states:

Corrosion damage has been found on the aft pressure bulkhead of SAAB 2000 aeroplanes, located on the rear side of the bulkhead at the bottom outboard flange. Corrosion damage in this area can become the starting point for future crack initiation and propagation.

This condition, if not detected and corrected, could affect the structural integrity of the aft pressure bulkhead, possibly resulting in in-flight decompression of the fuselage and injury to occupants.

For the reasons described above, this AD requires a detailed visual inspection of the aft pressure bulkhead at the bottom outboard flange [for corrosion and drain hole] and, depending on findings, corrective action.

Corrective actions include contacting the FAA or EASA (or its delegated agent) for repair instructions if corrosion is found, and drilling a drain hole. 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.

### **Differences Between This AD and the MCAI or Service Information**

We have reviewed the MCAI and related service information and, in general, agree with their substance. But we might have found it necessary to use different words from those in the MCAI to ensure the AD is clear for U.S. operators and is enforceable. In making these changes, we do not intend to differ substantively from the information provided in the MCAI and related service information.

We might also have required different actions in this AD from those in the MCAI in order to follow our FAA policies. Any such differences are highlighted in a NOTE within the AD.

## **Costs of Compliance**

We estimate that this AD will affect 8 products of U.S. registry. We also estimate that it will take about 12 work-hours per product to comply with the basic requirements of this AD. The average labor rate is \$85 per work-hour. Based on these figures, we estimate the cost of this AD to the U.S. operators to be \$8,160, or \$1,020 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 responsibilities among the various levels of government.

For the reasons discussed above, 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 a regulatory evaluation of the estimated costs to comply with this AD and placed it in the AD docket.

## **Examining the AD Docket**

You may examine the AD docket on the Internet at <http://www.regulations.gov>; or in person at the Docket Operations office between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays. The AD docket contains the NPRM, the regulatory evaluation, any comments received, and other information. The street address for the Docket Operations office (telephone (800) 647-5527) is in the ADDRESSES section. Comments will be available in the AD docket shortly after receipt.

## **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**

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:



**2011-18-05 Saab AB, Saab Aerosystems:** Amendment 39-16787. Docket No. FAA-2011-0476; Directorate Identifier 2010-NM-247-AD.

**Effective Date**

(a) This airworthiness directive (AD) becomes effective September 30, 2011.

**Affected ADs**

(b) None.

**Applicability**

(c) This AD applies to Saab AB, Saab Aerosystems Model SAAB 2000 airplanes, certificated in any category, all serial numbers.

**Subject**

(d) Air Transport Association (ATA) of America Code 53: Fuselage.

**Reason**

(e) The mandatory continuing airworthiness information (MCAI) states:

Corrosion damage has been found on the aft pressure bulkhead of SAAB 2000 aeroplanes, located on the rear side of the bulkhead at the bottom outboard flange. Corrosion damage in this area can become the starting point for future crack initiation and propagation.

This condition, if not detected and corrected, could affect the structural integrity of the aft pressure bulkhead, possibly resulting in in-flight decompression of the fuselage and injury to occupants.

\* \* \* \* \*

**Compliance**

(f) You are responsible for having the actions required by this AD performed within the compliance times specified, unless the actions have already been done.

**Inspection and Corrective Actions**

(g) Within 12 months after the effective date of this AD: Do a detailed inspection for corrosion of the aft pressure bulkhead at the bottom outboard flange, and to determine if there is a drain hole on the left-hand side inboard of the ventral fin, in accordance with the Accomplishment Instructions of Saab Service Bulletin 2000-53-048, Revision 01, dated September 3, 2009.

(h) If any corrosion is found during the inspection required by paragraph (g) of this AD: Before further flight, repair the corrosion in accordance with a method approved by the Manager, International Branch, ANM-116, Transport Airplane Directorate, FAA; or the European Aviation Safety Agency (EASA); or its delegated agent.

(i) If no drain hole is found during the inspection required by paragraph (g) of this AD, before further flight, drill a drain hole, in accordance with the Accomplishment Instructions of Saab Service Bulletin 2000-53-048, Revision 01, dated September 3, 2009.

(j) Within 30 days after accomplishing the inspection required by paragraph (g) of this AD, or within 30 days after the effective date of this AD, whichever is later: Report findings of corrosion to Saab at Saab AB, Saab Aerosystems, SE-581 88, Linköping, Sweden; telephone +46 13 18 5591; fax +46 13 18 4874; e-mail [saab2000.techsupport@saabgroup.com](mailto:saab2000.techsupport@saabgroup.com). Under the provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act (44 U.S.C. 3501 et seq.), the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) has approved the information collection requirements contained in this AD and has assigned OMB Control Number 2120 0056.

### **Credit for Actions Accomplished in Accordance With Previous Service Information**

(k) Actions done before the effective date of this AD in accordance with Saab Service Bulletin 2000-53-048, dated July 6, 2009, are considered acceptable for compliance with the corresponding actions required by paragraph (g) of this AD.

### **FAA AD Differences**

Note 1: This AD differs from the MCAI and/or service information as follows: No differences.

### **Other FAA AD Provisions**

(l) The following provisions also apply to this AD:

(1) Alternative Methods of Compliance (AMOCs): The Manager, International 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 International Branch, send it to ATTN: Shahram Daneshmandi, Aerospace Engineer, International Branch, ANM-116, Transport Airplane Directorate, FAA, 1601 Lind Avenue, SW., Renton, Washington 98057-3356; telephone (425) 227-1112; fax (425) 227-1149. Information may be e-mailed to: [9-ANM-116-AMOC-REQUESTS@faa.gov](mailto:9-ANM-116-AMOC-REQUESTS@faa.gov). 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. The AMOC approval letter must specifically reference this AD.

(2) Airworthy Product: For any requirement in this AD to obtain corrective actions from a manufacturer or other source, use these actions if they are FAA-approved. Corrective actions are considered FAA-approved if they are approved by the State of Design Authority (or their delegated agent). You are required to assure the product is airworthy before it is returned to service.

(3) Reporting Requirements: A Federal agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, nor shall a person be subject to a penalty for failure to comply with a collection of information subject to the requirements of the Paperwork Reduction Act unless that collection of information displays a current valid OMB Control Number. The OMB Control Number for this information collection is 2120-0056. Public reporting for this collection of information is estimated to be approximately 5 minutes per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, completing and reviewing the collection of information. All responses to this collection of information are mandatory. Comments concerning the accuracy of this burden and suggestions for

reducing the burden should be directed to the FAA at: 800 Independence Ave., SW., Washington, DC 20591, Attn: Information Collection Clearance Officer, AES-200.

### **Related Information**

(m) Refer to MCAI EASA Airworthiness Directive 2010-0184, dated September 6, 2010; and Saab Service Bulletin 2000-53-048, Revision 01, dated September 3, 2009; for related information.

### **Material Incorporated by Reference**

(n) You must use Saab Service Bulletin 2000-53-048, Revision 01, dated September 3, 2009, to do the actions required by this AD, unless the AD specifies otherwise.

(1) The Director of the Federal Register approved the incorporation by reference of this service information under 5 U.S.C. 552(a) and 1 CFR part 51.

(2) For service information identified in this AD, contact Saab AB, Saab Aerosystems, SE-581 88, Linköping, Sweden; telephone +46 13 18 5591; fax +46 13 18 4874; e-mail [saab2000.techsupport@saabgroup.com](mailto:saab2000.techsupport@saabgroup.com); Internet <http://www.saabgroup.com>.

(3) You may review copies of the service information at the FAA, Transport Airplane Directorate, 1601 Lind Avenue, SW., Renton, Washington. For information on the availability of this material at the FAA, call 425-227-1221.

(4) You may also review copies of the 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/code\\_of\\_federal\\_regulations/ibr\\_locations.html](http://www.archives.gov/federal_register/code_of_federal_regulations/ibr_locations.html).

Issued in Renton, Washington, on August 12, 2011.

Ali Bahrami,  
Manager, Transport Airplane Directorate,  
Aircraft Certification Service.