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[Page 51167-51169]
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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Aviation Administration

14 CFR Part 39

[Docket No. FAA-2007-27975 Directorate Identifier 2007-CE-041-AD; Amendment 39-15187; AD 2007-18-07]

RIN 2120-AA64

Airworthiness Directives; Piaggio Aero Industries S.p.A. Model P-180 Airplanes

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

ACTION: Final rule.

SUMMARY: We are adopting a new airworthiness directive (AD) for the products listed above. This AD results from mandatory continuing airworthiness information (MCAI) issued 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:

Several aircraft, at the factory, presented some debris in the hydraulic fluid of the steering system. Investigations revealed that some components of the steering system can be responsible for the fluid contamination because of an initial pollution on their manufacturing.

If not corrected, a contaminated fluid could cause malfunction and a possible jamming of the steering system.

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

DATES: This AD becomes effective October 11, 2007.

On October 11, 2007, the Director of the Federal Register approved the incorporation by reference of certain publications listed in this AD.

ADDRESSES: You may examine the AD docket on the Internet at <http://dms.dot.gov> or in person at Document Management Facility, 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: Sarjapur Nagarajan, Aerospace Engineer, FAA, Small Airplane Directorate, 901 Locust, Room 301, Kansas City, Missouri 64106; telephone: (816) 329-4145; fax: (816) 329-4090.

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 July 16, 2007 (72 FR 38800). That NPRM proposed to correct an unsafe condition for the specified products. The MCAI states:

Several aircraft, at the factory, presented some debris in the hydraulic fluid of the steering system. Investigations revealed that some components of the steering system can be responsible for the fluid contamination because of an initial pollution on their manufacturing.

If not corrected, a contaminated fluid could cause malfunction and a possible jamming of the steering system.

The superseded Airworthiness Directive (AD) 2007-0088-E was previously issued to address the unsafe condition.

The present Airworthiness Directive expands applicability of this AD to all P.180 'Avanti' series aircraft and the list of defective components as listed in revision 1 of Piaggio Aero Industries Mandatory Service Bulletin No 80-0236. This AD also requires Temporary Changes to the respective Airplane Flight Manual (AFM) and Aircraft Maintenance Manual (AMM) and introduces procedures to recondition defective units.

Comments

We gave the public the opportunity to participate in developing this AD. We considered the comment received.

Comment Issue: Replacement of Nose Landing Gear

One commenter suggests that the nose landing gear (NLG) does not need to be replaced as required in paragraph (f)(2)(ii) of this AD, but rather the steering actuator and manifold mounted to the NLG need to be replaced.

We agree with the commenter that it is the steering actuator and the manifold that need to be replaced and not the entire NLG. However, the service bulletin requires removing and sending the original NLG to a Messier-Dowty engineer to do the actuator and manifold replacement. The service bulletin then requires installing a serviceable NLG. The replacement NLG could be the original, which has been rebuilt according to Annex 8 of Piaggio Aero Industries S.p.A. Service Bulletin (Mandatory) N.: 80-0236 Rev. 1, dated May 15, 2007 (Messier-Dowty Service Bulletin No. P180-32-24, dated May 15, 2007), or it could be an exchanged NLG that complies with this AD. We have added a note to clarify that the NLG can be the same one that was removed if it has been serviced to comply with this AD.

Conclusion

We reviewed the available data, including the comment received, and determined that air safety and the public interest require adopting the AD with the changes described previously. We determined that these changes will not increase the economic burden on any operator or increase the scope of the AD.

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 FAA policies. Any such differences are highlighted in a Note within the AD.

Costs of Compliance

We estimate that this AD will affect 63 products of U.S. registry. We also estimate that it will take about 1 work-hour per product to comply with basic requirements of this AD. The average labor rate is \$80 per work-hour.

Based on these figures, we estimate the cost of this AD to the U.S. operators to be \$5,040, or \$80 per product.

In addition, we estimate that any necessary follow-on actions would take about 14 work-hours, for a cost of \$1,120 per product. Where the service information lists required parts costs that are covered under warranty, we have assumed that there will be no charge for these costs. As we do not control warranty coverage for affected parties, some parties may incur costs higher than estimated here. We have no way of determining the number of products that may need these actions.

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 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://dms.dot.gov>; or in person at the Docket Management Facility 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 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:



2007-18-07 Piaggio Aero Industries S.p.A.: Amendment 39-15187; Docket No. FAA-2007-27975; Directorate Identifier 2007-CE-041-AD.

Effective Date

- (a) This airworthiness directive (AD) becomes effective October 11, 2007.

Affected ADs

- (b) None.

Applicability

- (c) This AD applies to Model P-180 airplanes, all serial numbers, certificated in any category.

Subject

- (d) Air Transport Association of America (ATA) Code 32: Landing Gear.

Reason

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

Several aircraft, at the factory, presented some debris in the hydraulic fluid of the steering system. Investigations revealed that some components of the steering system can be responsible for the fluid contamination because of an initial pollution on their manufacturing.

If not corrected, a contaminated fluid could cause malfunction and a possible jamming of the steering system.

The superseded Airworthiness Directive (AD) 2007-0088-E was previously issued to address the unsafe condition.

The present Airworthiness Directive expands applicability of this AD to all P.180 'Avanti' series aircraft and the list of defective components as listed in revision 1 of Piaggio Aero Industries Mandatory Service Bulletin No 80-0236. This AD also requires Temporary Changes to the respective Airplane Flight Manual (AFM) and Aircraft Maintenance Manual (AMM) and introduces procedures to recondition defective units.

Actions and Compliance

- (f) Unless already done, do the following actions:

(1) Within the next 30 hours time-in-service (TIS) after October 11, 2007 (the effective date of this AD) or 30 days after October 11, 2007 (the effective date of this AD), whichever occurs first, inspect the identification of the steering actuator and the steering manifold installed on the airplane following Piaggio Aero Industries S.p.A. Service Bulletin (Mandatory) N.: 80-0236 Rev. 1, dated May 15, 2007.

(2) If any steering actuator listed in annex 7.1 or manifold listed in annex 7.2 of Piaggio Aero Industries S.p.A. Service Bulletin (Mandatory) N.: 80-0236 Rev. 1, dated May 15, 2007, is found in the inspection per paragraph (f)(1) of this AD:

(i) Before further flight after the inspection per paragraph (f)(1) of this AD, insert Temporary Change 3, issued March 15, 2007, into the LIMITATIONS section of Report 6591 (the airplane flight manual (AFM)) for P-180 Avanti Aircraft or Temporary Change 2, issued March 15, 2007, into the LIMITATIONS section of Report 180-MAN-0010-01100 (the AFM) for P-180 Avanti II aircraft. The owner/operator holding at least a private pilot certificate as authorized by section 43.7 of the Federal Aviation Regulations (14 CFR 43.7) may do this action. Make an entry in the aircraft records showing compliance with this portion of the AD following section 43.9 of the Federal Aviation Regulations (14 CFR 43.9).

(ii) Within the next 600 hours TIS after October 11, 2007 (the effective date of this AD) or 12 months after October 11, 2007 (the effective date of this AD), whichever occurs first, replace the nose landing gear (NLG) following Piaggio Aero Industries S.p.A. Service Bulletin (Mandatory) N.: 80-0236 Rev. 1, dated May 15, 2007.

Note 1: The replacement NLG could be the same unit that was removed from the aircraft and serviced in accordance with Annex 8 of Piaggio Aero Industries S.p.A. Service Bulletin (Mandatory) N.: 80-0236 Rev. 1, dated May 15, 2007 (Messier-Dowty Service Bulletin No. P180-32-24, dated May 15, 2007), or it could be a different NLG that complies with this AD.

(iii) After replacement of the NLG per paragraph (f)(2)(ii) of this AD, remove the steering system temporary limitations from the LIMITATIONS section of the AFM.

(3) Before further flight after accomplishment of the inspection specified in paragraph (f)(1) of this AD, do not install any steering actuator listed in annex 7.1 or manifold listed in annex 7.2 of Piaggio Aero Industries S.p.A. Service Bulletin (Mandatory) N.: 80-0236 Rev. 1, dated May 15, 2007.

Note 2: We encourage you to incorporate Temporary Revision 1 into the maintenance program (aircraft maintenance manual (AMM) P.180 Avanti report 9066) or Temporary Revision 11 into the maintenance program (AMM P.180 Avanti II report 180-MAN-0200-01105). The temporary revisions require confirmation that the steering manifold and steering actuator are compliant with Piaggio Aero Industries S.p.A. Service Bulletin (Mandatory) N.: 80-0236 Rev. 1, dated May 15, 2007.

FAA AD Differences

Note 3: This AD differs from the MCAI and/or service information as follows: The MCAI requires the initial inspection action within 5 hours TIS. We consider 5 hours TIS an urgent safety of flight compliance time, and we do not consider this unsafe condition to be an urgent safety of flight condition. Because we do not consider this unsafe condition to be an urgent safety of flight condition, we issued this action through the normal notice of proposed rulemaking (NPRM) AD process followed by this final rule. The initial compliance time of 30 hours TIS after the effective date of this AD or 30 days after the effective date of this AD, whichever occurs first, is an adequate compliance time for this AD action and met the FAA requirements for an NPRM followed by a final rule.

Other FAA AD Provisions

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

(1) Alternative Methods of Compliance (AMOCs): The Manager, Standards Office, 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: Sarjapur Nagarajan, Aerospace Engineer, FAA, Small Airplane Directorate, 901 Locust, Room 301, Kansas City, Missouri 64106; telephone: (816) 329-4145; fax: (816) 329-4090. Before using any approved AMOC on any airplane to which the AMOC applies, notify your appropriate principal inspector (PI) in the FAA Flight Standards District Office (FSDO), or lacking a PI, your local FSDO.

(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: For any reporting requirement in this AD, 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 and has assigned OMB Control Number 2120 0056.

Related Information

(h) Refer to MCAI European Aviation Safety Agency (EASA) Emergency Airworthiness Directive EAD No: 2007-0147-E, dated May 22, 2007; and Piaggio Aero Industries S.p.A. Service Bulletin (Mandatory) N.: 80-0236 Rev. 1, dated May 15, 2007, for related information.

Material Incorporated by Reference

(i) You must use Piaggio Aero Industries S.p.A. Service Bulletin (Mandatory) N.: 80-0236 Rev. 1, dated May 15, 2007, 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 Piaggio Aero Industries S.p.a., Via Cibrario, 4-16154 Genoa, Italy; telephone +39 010 06481 741; fax: +39 010 6481 309; e-mail: MMicheli@piaggioaero.it.

(3) You may review copies at the FAA, Central Region, Office of the Regional Counsel, 901 Locust, Room 506, Kansas City, Missouri 64106; or 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 August 24, 2007.

Brian A. Yanez,

Acting Manager, Small Airplane Directorate, Aircraft Certification Service.

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