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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Aviation Administration

14 CFR Part 39

[Docket No. FAA-2015-2775; Directorate Identifier 2015-CE-021-AD; Amendment 39-18277; AD 2015-19-15]

RIN 2120-AA64

Airworthiness Directives; Pilatus Aircraft Ltd. Airplanes

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

ACTION: Final rule.

SUMMARY: We are adopting a new airworthiness directive (AD) for PILATUS AIRCRAFT LTD. Models PC-12, PC-12/45, and PC-12/47E airplanes. 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 a malfunction of the universal joint. We are issuing this AD to require actions to address the unsafe condition on these products.

DATES: This AD is effective November 3, 2015.

The Director of the Federal Register approved the incorporation by reference of a certain publication listed in the AD as of November 3, 2015.

ADDRESSES: You may examine the AD docket on the Internet at <http://www.regulations.gov> by searching for and locating Docket No. FAA-2015-2775; 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 service information identified in this AD, contact PILATUS AIRCRAFT LTD, Customer Support Manager, CH-6371 STANS, Switzerland; phone: +41 (0)41 619 33 33; fax: +41 (0)41 619 73 11; email: aircraft.com>SupportPC12@pilatus-aircraft.com; Internet: <http://www.pilatus-aircraft.com>. You may view this referenced service information at the FAA, Small Airplane Directorate, 901 Locust, Kansas City, Missouri 64106. For information on the availability of this material at the FAA, call (816) 329-4148. It is also available on the Internet at <http://www.regulations.gov> by searching for Docket No. FAA-2015-2775.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Doug Rudolph, Aerospace Engineer, FAA, Small Airplane Directorate, 901 Locust, Room 301, Kansas City, Missouri 64106; telephone: (816) 329-4059; fax: (816) 329-4090; email: doug.rudolph@faa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Discussion

We issued a notice of proposed rulemaking (NPRM) to amend 14 CFR part 39 to adding an AD that would apply to PILATUS AIRCRAFT LTD. Model PC-12, PC-12/45, and PC-12/47E airplanes. The NPRM was published in the Federal Register on July 14, 2015 (80 FR 40949). The NPRM proposed to correct an unsafe condition for the specified products and was based on mandatory continuing airworthiness information (MCAI) originated by an aviation authority of another country. The MCAI states:

A case of malfunctioning was reported of a universal joint installed between the control tube assembly and the control column on a PC-12/47E aeroplane.

Investigation determined that the malfunction was caused by an incorrectly manufactured universal joint. Universal joints from the same manufacturing batch were provided to operators between 01 March 2014 and 28 February 2015, and are thus potentially affected.

This condition, if not corrected, could lead to other cases of malfunctioning of a universal joint, possibly resulting in reduced control of the aeroplane.

To address this potential unsafe condition, Pilatus Aircraft Ltd. issued Service Bulletin (SB) No. 27-022 to provide instructions for replacement of the universal joints in the flight controls.

For the reason described above, this AD requires removal from service of the potentially incorrectly manufactured universal joints. The MCAI can be found in the AD docket on the Internet at: <http://www.regulations.gov/#!documentDetail;D=FAA-2015-2775-0002>.

Comments

We gave the public the opportunity to participate in developing this AD. We received no comments on the NPRM (80 FR 40949, July 14, 2015) or on the determination of the cost to the public.

Conclusion

We reviewed the relevant data and determined that air safety and the public interest require adopting the AD as proposed except for minor editorial changes. We have determined that these minor changes:

- Are consistent with the intent that was proposed in the NPRM (80 FR 40949, July 14, 2015) for correcting the unsafe condition; and
- Do not add any additional burden upon the public than was already proposed in the NPRM (80 FR 40949, July 14, 2015).

Related Service Information Under 1 CFR Part 51

We reviewed PILATUS AIRCRAFT LTD. PILATUS PC-12 Service Bulletin No: 27-022, dated March 17, 2015. The service information describes procedures for replacement of the universal joint on the aileron control system. This service information is reasonably available because the interested parties have access to it through their normal course of business or by the means identified in the ADDRESSES section of the AD.

Costs of Compliance

We estimate that this AD will affect 55 products of U.S. registry. We also estimate that it would take about 3 work-hours per product to comply with the basic requirements of this AD. The average labor rate is \$85 per work-hour. Required parts would cost about \$1,000 per product.

Based on these figures, we estimate the cost of the AD on U.S. operators to be \$69,025 or \$1,255 per product.

According to the manufacturer, all of the costs of this AD may be covered under warranty, thereby reducing the cost impact on affected individuals. We do not control warranty coverage for affected individuals. As a result, we have included all costs in our cost estimate.

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),
- (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.

Examining the AD Docket

You may examine the AD docket on the Internet at <http://www.regulations.gov> by searching for and locating Docket No. FAA-2015-2775; 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:



2015-19-15 Pilatus Aircraft Ltd.: Amendment 39-18277; Docket No. FAA-2015-2775; Directorate Identifier 2015-CE-021-AD.

(a) Effective Date

This airworthiness directive (AD) becomes effective November 3, 2015.

(b) Affected ADs

None.

(c) Applicability

This AD applies to PILATUS AIRCRAFT LTD. Models PC-12, PC-12/45, and PC-12/47E airplanes, manufacturer serial numbers 244, 307, 409, 646, 1447 through 1450, 1461, 1462, 1466 through 1514, 1516 through 1520, and 1523, certificated in any category.

(d) Subject

Air Transport Association of America (ATA) Code 27: Flight Controls.

(e) Reason

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 a malfunction of the universal joint. We are issuing this AD to replace defective aileron control system universal joints.

(f) Actions and Compliance

Unless already done, do the following actions in paragraphs (f)(1) and (f)(2) of this AD, to include all subparagraphs.

(1) For airplanes equipped with aileron control system universal joints part number (P/N) 944.61.73.012 or P/N 527.10.12.195, purchased between March 1, 2014, and February 28, 2015; or universal joints installed in service through an aileron control system inspection kit P/N 500.50.12.314, purchased between March 1, 2014, and February 28, 2015, do one of the following actions as applicable:

(i) For airplanes with less than 200 flight cycles since first flight of the airplane or less than 200 flight cycles since installation of an affected universal joint or inspection kit, whichever applies: Within 10 flight cycles after November 3, 2015 (the effective date of this AD) or 3 months after November 3, 2015 (the effective date of this AD), whichever occurs first, replace with a new universal joint P/N 527.10.12.195 purchased after March 1, 2015, and marked with a placard "RT iO" following the Accomplishment Instructions in PILATUS PC-12 Service Bulletin No: 27-022, dated March 17, 2015.

(ii) For airplanes with 200 flight cycles or more since first flight of the airplane or 200 flight cycles or more since installation of an affected universal joint or inspection kit, whichever applies: Within 12 months after November 3, 2015 (the effective date of this AD), replace with a new universal joint P/N 527.10.12.195 purchased after March 1, 2015, and marked with a placard "RT iO" following the Accomplishment Instructions in PILATUS PC-12 Service Bulletin No: 27-022, dated March 17, 2015.

(iii) For all airplanes where total flight cycles are not tracked: The conversion formula is one flight cycle equals one flight hour.

(2) For all airplanes: After November 3, 2015 (the effective date of this AD), do not install the following parts on any airplane after the modification of the airplane as required in paragraphs (f)(1)(i) and (f)(1)(ii) of this AD or any airplane that does not have an affected part installed:

(i) A universal joint P/N 944.61.73.012 or P/N 527.10.12.195 (except for a P/N 527.10.12.195 marked with a placard "RT iO").

(ii) Inspection kit P/N 500.50.12.314 purchased between March 1, 2014, and February 28, 2015.

(g) Other FAA AD Provisions

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: Doug Rudolph, Aerospace Engineer, FAA, Small Airplane Directorate, 901 Locust, Room 301, Kansas City, Missouri 64106; telephone: (816) 329-4059; fax: (816) 329-4090; email: doug.rudolph@faa.gov. 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, 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.

(h) Related Information

Refer to MCAI European Aviation Safety Agency (EASA) AD No.: 2015-0111, dated June 16, 2015, for related information. The MCAI can be found in the AD docket on the Internet at: <http://www.regulations.gov/#!documentDetail;D=FAA-2015-2775-0002>.

(i) Material Incorporated by Reference

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

(2) You must use this service information as applicable to do the actions required by this AD, unless the AD specifies otherwise.

(i) PILATUS PC-12 Service Bulletin No: 27-022, dated March 17, 2015.

(ii) Reserved.

(3) For PILATUS AIRCRAFT LTD. service information identified in this AD, contact: PILATUS AIRCRAFT LTD, Customer Support Manager, CH-6371 STANS, Switzerland; phone: +41 (0)41 619 33 33; fax: +41 (0)41 619 73 11; email: SupportPC12@pilatus-aircraft.com; Internet: <http://www.pilatus-aircraft.com>.

(4) You may view this service information at the FAA, Small Airplane Directorate, 901 Locust, Kansas City, Missouri 64106. For information on the availability of this material at the FAA, call (816) 329-4148. In addition, you can access this service information on the Internet at <http://www.regulations.gov> by searching for and locating Docket No. FAA-2015-2775.

(5) You may view this 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/cfr/ibr-locations.html>.

Issued in Kansas City, Missouri, on September 18, 2015.

Melvin Johnson,
Acting Manager, Small Airplane Directorate,
Aircraft Certification Service.