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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Aviation Administration

14 CFR Part 39

[Docket No. FAA-2007-27208 Directorate Identifier 2007-CE-010-AD; Amendment 39-15040; AD 2007-09-08]

RIN 2120-AA64

Airworthiness Directives; Vulcanair S.p.A. Model P68 Series 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:

The backrest recline of pilot and copilot seats requires the removal of a "quick release pin" not correctly indicated in the AFM and not readily detectable by the passengers. Moreover the operation of removal the device is difficult. This cause difficulty or disables the access to the escapes of the cabin in case of emergency evacuation.

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

DATES: This AD becomes effective June 4, 2007.

On June 4, 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 the Docket Management Facility, U.S. Department of Transportation, 400 Seventh Street, SW., Nassif Building, Room PL-401, Washington, DC.

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:

Streamlined Issuance of AD

The FAA is implementing a new process for streamlining the issuance of ADs related to MCAI. The streamlined process will allow us to adopt MCAI safety requirements in a more efficient manner and will reduce safety risks to the public. This process continues to follow all FAA AD issuance processes to meet legal, economic, Administrative Procedure Act, and Federal Register requirements. We also continue to meet our technical decision-making responsibilities to identify and correct unsafe conditions on U.S.-certificated products.

This AD references the MCAI and related service information that we considered in forming the engineering basis to correct the unsafe condition. The AD contains text copied from the MCAI and for this reason might not follow our plain language principles.

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 March 9, 2007 (72 FR 10620). That NPRM proposed to correct an unsafe condition for the specified products. The MCAI states that:

The backrest recline of pilot and copilot seats requires the removal of a "quick release pin" not correctly indicated in the AFM and not readily detectable by the passengers. Moreover the operation of removal the device is difficult. This cause difficulty or disables the access to the escapes of the cabin in case of emergency evacuation.

Carry out the operational checks/inspection/modification:

- Kit SB 128/A-1 applicable to aircraft model P68C. Serial numbers (S/N) 429, 434 and 435 are excluded;
- Kit SB 128/A-2 applicable only to P68C aircraft with S/N 429, 434 and 435;
- Kit SB 128/B applicable to aircraft model P68 Observer 2;
- Kit SB 128/C applicable to aircraft model P68TC Observer; called for by the referenced Service Bulletin, in accordance with the procedures in there specified, within the terms set forth under "COMPLIANCE" of this AD.

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

Costs of Compliance

We estimate that this AD will affect 15 products of U.S. registry. We also estimate that it will take about 2 work-hours per product to comply with basic requirements of this AD. The average labor rate is \$80 per work-hour. Where the service information lists required parts costs that are covered under warranty, we have assumed that there will be no charge for these parts. As we do not control warranty coverage for affected parties, some parties may incur costs higher than estimated here. Based on these figures, we estimate the cost of this AD to the U.S. operators to be \$2,400 or \$160 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 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) 647-5227) 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:



2007-09-08 Vulcanair S.p.A. (Type certificate No. A31EU formerly held by Partenavia Costruzioni Aeronautiche S.p.A.): Amendment 39-15040; Docket No. FAA-2007-27208; Directorate Identifier 2007-CE-010-AD.

Effective Date

- (a) This airworthiness directive (AD) becomes effective June 4, 2007.

Affected ADs

- (b) None.

Applicability

- (c) This AD applies to Models P68C, P68 Observer 2, and P68TC Observer airplanes, serial numbers 412 through 424 (except 418), 429, 434, and 435, certificated in any category.

Subject

- (d) Air Transport Association of America (ATA) Code 51: Structures.

Reason

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

The backrest recline of pilot and copilot seats requires the removal of a "quick release pin" not correctly indicated in the AFM and not readily detectable by the passengers. Moreover the operation of removal the device is difficult. This cause difficulty or disables the access to the escapes of the cabin in case of emergency evacuation.

Carry out the operational checks/inspection/modification:

–Kit SB 128/A-1 applicable to aircraft model P68C. Serial numbers (S/N) 429, 434 and 435 are excluded;

–Kit SB 128/A-2 applicable only to P68C aircraft with S/N 429, 434 and 435;

–Kit SB 128/B applicable to aircraft model P68 Observer 2;

–Kit SB 128/C applicable to aircraft model P68TC Observer; called for by the referenced Service Bulletin, in accordance with the procedures in there specified, within the terms set forth under "COMPLIANCE" of this AD.

Actions and Compliance

- (f) Unless already done, do the following actions within 30 days after June 4, 2007 (the effective date of this AD):

(1) For Model P68C airplanes, all serial numbers except 429, 434, and 435: Install Kit SB 128/A-1, following Vulcanair S.p.A. P68 Variants Mandatory Service Bulletin No. 128, dated October 12, 2004;

(2) For Model P68C airplanes, serial numbers 429, 434, and 435: Install Kit SB 128/A-2 following Vulcanair S.p.A. P68 Variants Mandatory Service Bulletin No. 128, dated October 12, 2004;

(3) For Model P68 Observer 2 airplanes, all serial numbers: Install Kit SB 128/B, following Vulcanair S.p.A. P68 Variants Mandatory Service Bulletin No. 128, dated October 12, 2004; or

(4) For Model P68TC Observer airplanes, all serial numbers: Install Kit SB 128/C, following Vulcanair S.p.A. P68 Variants Mandatory Service Bulletin No. 128, dated October 12, 2004.

FAA AD Differences

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

Other FAA AD Provisions

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

(1) Alternative Methods of Compliance (AMOCs): The Manager, Standards Staff, FAA, 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, has the authority to approve AMOCs for this AD, if requested using the procedures found in 14 CFR 39.19.

(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 Ente Nazionale per l'Aviazione Civile (ENAC), AD N. 2004-522, Rev. 0, dated December 20, 2004; and Vulcanair S.p.A. P68 Variants Mandatory Service Bulletin No. 128, dated October 12, 2004, for related information.

Material Incorporated by Reference

(i) You must use Vulcanair S.p.A. P68 Variants Mandatory Service Bulletin No. 128, dated October 12, 2004, 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 Vulcanair S.p.A, Via G. Pascoli, 7, Casoria (Naples), 80026 Italy; telephone: +39 081 5918111; fax: +39 081 5918172; e-mail: info@vulcanair.com; Internet: <http://www.vulcanair.com>.

(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 April 20, 2007.
Charles L. Smalley,
Acting Manager, Small Airplane Directorate, Aircraft Certification Service.
[FR Doc. E7-8071 Filed 4-27-07; 8:45 am]