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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Aviation Administration

14 CFR Part 39

[Docket No. FAA-2011-1090; Directorate Identifier 2011-NM-138-AD; Amendment 39-16986; AD 2012-06-05]

RIN 2120-AA64

Airworthiness Directives; Bombardier, Inc. Airplanes

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

ACTION: Final rule.

SUMMARY: We are adopting a new airworthiness directive (AD) for certain Bombardier, Inc. Model DHC-8-400 series airplanes. This AD was prompted by a report of the inability to open the airstair door while on the ground, because the airstair door seal did not deflate, which prevented the airstair door from opening. This AD requires changing the wiring that controls the pneumatic shut-off valve. We are issuing this AD to prevent the airstair door seal from not deflating, which could result in the airstair door not opening and could impede evacuation in the event of an emergency.

DATES: This AD becomes effective April 27, 2012.

The Director of the Federal Register approved the incorporation by reference of a certain publication listed in this AD as of April 27, 2012.

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: Cesar Gomez, Aerospace Engineer, Airframe and Mechanical Systems Branch, ANE-171, FAA, New York Aircraft Certification Office, 1600 Stewart Avenue, Suite 410, Westbury, New York 11590; telephone (516) 228-7318; fax (516) 794-5531.

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

October 19, 2011 (76 FR 64847). That NPRM proposed to correct an unsafe condition for the specified products. The MCAI states:

One case of the inability to open the airstair door while on ground was reported in service. The airstair door seal did not deflate, preventing the airstair door from opening. It was found that the existing airstair door pneumatic shut-off valve control logic prevents the airstair door seal from deflating due to a single Input/Output Module failure under certain conditions. The inability to open the airstair door could impede evacuation in the event of an emergency.

This [Canadian] directive mandates the wiring changes [ModSum 4-126513, Seal System Shut Off Valve Control Logic Change] to prevent the above-mentioned failure conditions.

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 have considered the comment received.

Support for the Intent of the NPRM (76 FR 64847, October 19, 2011)

Air Line Pilots Association, International (ALPA), supports the intent of the NPRM (76 FR 64847, October 19, 2011).

Recommendation To Reduce Compliance Time

ALPA recommends that the compliance time proposed in the NPRM (76 FR 64847, October 19, 2011) be reduced to not exceed 3,000 flight hours or 12 months, whichever occurs first, instead of within 6,000 flight hours as specified in the NPRM.

We disagree with the commenter's recommendation to reduce the compliance time. We have determined that within 6,000 flight hours represents an appropriate interval of time in which the required actions can be performed. Transport Canada Civil Aviation (TCCA), in issuing their Canadian Airworthiness Directive CF-2011-15, dated June 20, 2011, has assessed the risk involved with that action, and through that assessment derived the compliance time, with which the manufacturer, Bombardier, Inc., has concurred. The AD does allow operators to comply earlier than the 6,000 flight hours. However, if additional data are presented that would justify a shorter compliance time, we might consider further rulemaking. We have not changed the AD in this regard.

Explanation of Change Made to This AD

We have revised the wording of paragraph (h) of this AD; this change does not change the intent of that paragraph.

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 change described previously and minor editorial changes. We have determined that these minor changes:

- Are consistent with the intent that was proposed in the NPRM (76 FR 64847, October 19, 2011) for correcting the unsafe condition; and

- Do not add any additional burden upon the public than was already proposed in the NPRM (76 FR 64847, October 19, 2011).

Costs of Compliance

We estimate that this AD will affect about 81 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. Required parts will cost about \$0 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 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 \$82,620, 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 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.

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 (76 FR 64847, October 19, 2011), 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:



2012-06-05 Bombardier, Inc.: Amendment 39-16986. Docket No. FAA-2011-1090; Directorate Identifier 2011-NM-138-AD.

(a) Effective Date

This airworthiness directive (AD) becomes effective April 27, 2012.

(b) Affected ADs

None.

(c) Applicability

This AD applies to Bombardier, Inc. Model DHC-8-400, -401, and -402 airplanes, certificated in any category, serial numbers 4001 through 4361 inclusive.

(d) Subject

Air Transport Association (ATA) of America Code 52: Doors.

(e) Reason

This AD was prompted by a report of the inability to open the airstair door while on the ground, because the airstair door seal did not deflate, which prevented the airstair door from opening. We are issuing this AD to prevent the airstair door seal from not deflating, which could result in the airstair door not opening and could impede evacuation in the event of an emergency.

(f) Compliance

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

(g) Actions

Within 6,000 flight hours after the effective date of this AD: Incorporate ModSum 4-126513, Seal System Shut Off Valve Control Logic Change, in accordance with the Accomplishment Instructions of Bombardier Service Bulletin 84-52-69, Revision C, dated June 28, 2011.

(h) Credit for Previous Actions

This paragraph provides credit for the actions required by paragraph (g) of this AD, if the actions were performed before the effective date of this AD using Bombardier Service Bulletin 84-52-69, dated January 28, 2011; Revision A, dated April 26, 2011; or Revision B, dated May 9, 2011.

(i) Other FAA AD Provisions

The following provisions also apply to this AD:

(1) Alternative Methods of Compliance (AMOCs): The Manager, New York Aircraft Certification Office (ACO), ANE-170, 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 ACO, send it to Attn: Program Manager, Continuing Operational Safety, FAA, New York ACO, 1600 Stewart Avenue, Suite 410, Westbury, New York 11590; telephone 516-228-7300; fax 516-794-5531. 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.

(j) Related Information

Refer to MCAI Canadian Airworthiness Directive CF-2011-15, dated June 20, 2011; and Bombardier Service Bulletin 84-52-69, Revision C, dated June 28, 2011; for related information.

(k) Material Incorporated by Reference

(1) You must use the following service information to do the actions required by this AD, unless the AD specifies otherwise. The Director of the Federal Register approved the incorporation by reference (IBR) of the following service information under 5 U.S.C. 552(a) and 1 CFR part 51:

(i) Bombardier Service Bulletin 84-52-69, Revision C, dated June 28, 2011.

(2) For service information identified in this AD, contact Bombardier, Inc., Q-Series Technical Help Desk, 123 Garratt Boulevard, Toronto, Ontario M3K 1Y5, Canada; telephone 416-375-4000; fax 416-375-4539; email thd.qseries@aero.bombardier.com; Internet <http://www.bombardier.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 an NARA facility, call 202-741-6030, or go to http://www.archives.gov/federal_register/code_of_federal_regulations/ibr_locations.html.

Issued in Renton, Washington, on March 9, 2012.

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