

**Airbus:** Docket 2003–NM–274–AD.

**Applicability:** Model A300 B2 and A300 B4; Model A300 B4–600, B4–600R, C4–605R Variant F, and F4–600R (collectively called A300–600); and Model A310 series airplanes; equipped with Goodrich escape slides; certificated in any category.

**Compliance:** Required as indicated, unless accomplished previously.

To prevent the failure of an escape slide to deploy during emergency evacuation, which could impede an evacuation and result in injury to flightcrew and passengers, accomplish the following:

#### Service Bulletin Reference

(a) The term “service bulletin,” as used in this AD, means the Accomplishment Instructions of the following service bulletins, as applicable:

(1) For Model A300 B2 and A300 B4 series airplanes: Airbus Service Bulletin A300–25A0475, dated October 3, 2003;

(2) For Model A300 B4–600, B4–600R, C4–605R Variant F, and F4–600R (collectively called A300–600) series airplanes: Airbus Service Bulletin A300–25A6184, dated October 3, 2003; and

(3) For Model A310 series airplanes: Airbus Service Bulletin A310–25A2165, dated October 3, 2003.

**Note 1:** These service bulletins reference Goodrich Alert Service Bulletin 7A1296/7A1298–25A345, dated October 15, 2003, as an additional source of service information for accomplishment of the inspection and modification.

#### Inspections and Corrective Action

(b) Within 180 days after the effective date of this AD: Do an inspection to determine the part number (P/N) of the passenger/crew door escape slides. If any Goodrich P/N 7A1298–001, 7A1298–002, 7A1296–001, or 7A1296–002 is found during the inspection, prior to further flight, do the related investigative action, any applicable corrective action, and replace the slide with a new or modified slide which has a girt with the correct P/N. Do all actions per the applicable service bulletin.

#### Parts Installation

(c) As of the effective date of this AD, no person may install on any airplane a Goodrich escape slide having P/N 7A1298–001, 7A1298–002, 7A1296–001, or 7A1296–002, unless the related investigative and any applicable corrective action has been done per paragraph (b) of this AD.

#### Alternative Methods of Compliance

(d) In accordance with 14 CFR 39.19, the Manager, International Branch, ANM–116, FAA, Transport Airplane Directorate, is authorized to approve alternative methods of compliance for this AD.

**Note 2:** The subject of this AD is addressed in French airworthiness directive F–2003–435, dated December 10, 2003.

Issued in Renton, Washington, on April 21, 2004.

**Kalene C. Yanamura,**

*Acting Manager, Transport Airplane Directorate, Aircraft Certification Service.*

[FR Doc. 04–9903 Filed 4–30–04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910–13–P

## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

### Federal Aviation Administration

#### 14 CFR Part 39

[Docket No. 2003–NM–106–AD]

RIN 2120–AA64

#### Airworthiness Directives; Boeing Model 737–600, –700, –700C, –800, and –900 Series Airplanes

**AGENCY:** Federal Aviation Administration, DOT.

**ACTION:** Notice of proposed rulemaking (NPRM).

**SUMMARY:** This document proposes the adoption of a new airworthiness directive (AD) that is applicable to certain Boeing Model 737–600, –700, –700C, –800, and –900 series airplanes. This proposal would require a general visual inspection for sealant at the interface between the diagonal brace fitting and the aft bulkhead and at the four bolts common to the interface. It would also require applying sealant if none is present or if it is not continuous. This action is necessary to prevent flammable fluid in the upper or rear pylon areas from leaking past unsealed areas and onto a hot engine nozzle, which could result in ignition of the fluid, causing an undetected and uncontrollable fire to spread into the engine struts. This action is intended to address the identified unsafe condition.

**DATES:** Comments must be received by June 17, 2004.

**ADDRESSES:** Submit comments in triplicate to the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), Transport Airplane Directorate, ANM–114, Attention: Rules Docket No. 2003–NM–106–AD, 1601 Lind Avenue, SW., Renton, Washington 98055–4056. Comments may be inspected at this location between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays. Comments may be submitted via fax to (425) 227–1232. Comments may also be sent via the Internet using the following address: [9-anm-nprmcomment@faa.gov](mailto:9-anm-nprmcomment@faa.gov). Comments sent via fax or the Internet must contain “Docket No. 2003–NM–106–AD,” in the subject line and need not be submitted in triplicate. Comments sent via the

Internet as attached electronic files must be formatted in Microsoft Word 97 or 2000 or ASCII text.

The service information referenced in the proposed rule may be obtained from Boeing Commercial Airplanes, P.O. Box 3707, Seattle, Washington 98124–2207. This information may be examined at the FAA, Transport Airplane Directorate, 1601 Lind Avenue, SW., Renton, Washington.

#### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Doug Pegors, Aerospace Engineer, Propulsion Branch, ANM–140S, FAA, Seattle Aircraft Certification Office, 1601 Lind Avenue, SW., Renton, Washington 98055–4056; telephone (425) 917–6504; fax (425) 917–6590.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

#### Comments Invited

Interested persons are invited to participate in the making of the proposed rule by submitting such written data, views, or arguments, as they may desire. Communications shall identify the Rules Docket number and be submitted in triplicate to the address specified above. All communications received on or before the closing date for comments, specified above, will be considered before taking action on the proposed rule. The proposals contained in this action may be changed in light of the comments received.

Submit comments using the following format:

- Organize comments issue-by-issue. For example, discuss a request to change the compliance time and a request to change the service bulletin reference as two separate issues.
- For each issue, state what specific change to the proposed AD is being requested.
- Include justification (e.g., reasons or data) for each request.

Comments are specifically invited on the overall regulatory, economic, environmental, and energy aspects of the proposed rule. All comments submitted will be available, both before and after the closing date for comments, in the Rules Docket for examination by interested persons. A report summarizing each FAA-public contact concerned with the substance of this proposal will be filed in the Rules Docket.

Commenters wishing the FAA to acknowledge receipt of their comments submitted in response to this action must submit a self-addressed, stamped postcard on which the following statement is made: “Comments to Docket Number 2003–NM–106–AD.” The postcard will be date stamped and returned to the commenter.

### Availability of NPRMs

Any person may obtain a copy of this NPRM by submitting a request to the FAA, Transport Airplane Directorate, ANM-114, Attention: Rules Docket No. 2003-NM-106-AD, 1601 Lind Avenue, SW., Renton, Washington 98055-4056.

### Discussion

The FAA has received reports indicating that the fay sealing at the interface between the diagonal brace fitting and aft bulkhead in both engine struts and the wet installation of four bolts common to the interface may not have been completed during production of certain Boeing Model 737-600, -700, -800, and -900 series airplanes. This area is a flammable leakage zone and requires sealing of all openings that could provide a path to an ignition source. Incomplete sealing, if not corrected, could allow flammable fluid in the upper or rear pylon areas to leak past unsealed areas and onto a hot engine nozzle, which could result in ignition of the fluid, causing an undetected and uncontrollable fire to spread into the engine struts.

### Explanation of Relevant Service Information

The FAA has reviewed and approved Boeing Special Attention Service Bulletin 737-54-1039, Revision 1, dated October 10, 2002, which describes procedures for the following actions:

1. A general visual inspection to determine whether the diagonal brace fitting and aft bulkhead has been fay sealed or fillet sealed to the aft bulkhead and to determine whether the four bolts have been wet installed or cap sealed.

2. Application of fillet seal, if the seal is not present or not continuous. Accomplishment of the actions specified in the service bulletin is intended to adequately address the identified unsafe condition.

### Explanation of Requirements of Proposed Rule

Since an unsafe condition has been identified that is likely to exist or develop on other products of this same type design, the proposed AD would require accomplishment of the actions specified in the service bulletin described previously.

### Cost Impact

There are approximately 946 airplanes of the affected design in the worldwide fleet. The FAA estimates that 436 airplanes of U.S. registry would be affected by this proposed AD, that it would take approximately 2 work hours per airplane to accomplish the proposed actions, and that the average labor rate

is \$65 per work hour. Based on these figures, the cost impact of the proposed AD on U.S. operators is estimated to be \$56,680, or \$130 per airplane.

The cost impact figure discussed above is based on assumptions that no operator has yet accomplished any of the proposed requirements of this AD action, and that no operator would accomplish those actions in the future if this proposed AD were not adopted. The cost impact figures discussed in AD rulemaking actions represent only the time necessary to perform the specific actions actually required by the AD. These figures typically do not include incidental costs, such as the time required to gain access and close up, planning time, or time necessitated by other administrative actions. Manufacturer warranty remedies may be available for labor costs associated with this proposed AD. As a result, the costs attributable to the proposed AD may be less than stated above.

### Regulatory Impact

The regulations proposed herein would 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. Therefore, it is determined that this proposal would not have federalism implications under Executive Order 13132.

For the reasons discussed above, I certify that 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); and (3) if promulgated, 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. A copy of the draft regulatory evaluation prepared for this action is contained in the Rules Docket. A copy of it may be obtained by contacting the Rules Docket at the location provided under the caption ADDRESSES.

### List of Subjects in 14 CFR Part 39

Air transportation, Aircraft, Aviation safety, Safety.

### The Proposed Amendment

Accordingly, pursuant to the authority delegated to me by the Administrator, the Federal Aviation Administration proposes to amend part 39 of the Federal Aviation Regulations (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. Section 39.13 is amended by adding the following new airworthiness directive:

**Boeing:** Docket 2003-NM-106-AD.

**Applicability:** Model 737-600, -700, -700C, -800, and -900 series airplanes, line numbers 1 through 946 inclusive; certificated in any category.

**Compliance:** Required as indicated, unless accomplished previously.

To prevent flammable fluid in the upper or rear pylon areas from leaking past unsealed areas and onto a hot engine nozzle, which could result in ignition of the fluid, causing an undetected and uncontrollable fire to spread into the engine struts; accomplish the following:

### Inspection of Sealant

(a) Within 18 months or 3,500 flight cycles after the effective date of this AD, whichever occurs first: Perform a general visual inspection for sealant at the interface of the diagonal brace fitting and the aft bulkhead and at the four bolts common to the interface, in accordance with the Accomplishment Instructions of Boeing Special Attention Service Bulletin 737-54-1039, Revision 1, dated October 10, 2002.

(1) If the findings of the general visual inspection are as described in paragraphs (a)(1)(i) and (a)(1)(ii) of this AD, then no further action is required by this AD.

(i) The seal is continuous or there is evidence of fay seal squeeze out present.

(ii) The bolts have evidence of sealant squeeze out or a cap seal exists.

### Application of Fillet Seal and Cap Seal

(2) If the findings of the general visual inspection are as described in paragraphs (a)(2)(i) and/or (a)(2)(ii) of this AD, before further flight: Fillet seal around the interface of the diagonal brace fitting and the aft bulkhead; and/or cap seal the four bolts common to the interface; as applicable; in accordance with the Accomplishment Instructions of Boeing Special Attention Service Bulletin 737-54-1039, Revision 1, dated October 10, 2002.

(i) The seal is not continuous and there is no evidence of fay seal squeeze out present.

(ii) The bolts do not have evidence of sealant squeeze out and no cap seal exists.

### Credit for Actions Accomplished per Previous Service Bulletin

(b) Actions accomplished before the effective date of this AD per Boeing Special Attention Service Bulletin 737-54-1039, dated June 13, 2002, are acceptable for compliance with the corresponding actions of paragraph (a) of this AD.

### Alternative Methods of Compliance

(c) In accordance with 14 CFR 39.19, the Manager, Seattle Aircraft Certification Office

(ACO), FAA, is authorized to approve alternative methods of compliance for this AD.

Issued in Renton, Washington, on April 21, 2004.

**Kalene C. Yanamura,**

*Acting Manager, Transport Airplane Directorate, Aircraft Certification Service.*

[FR Doc. 04-9902 Filed 4-30-04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-13-P

## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

### Federal Aviation Administration

#### 14 CFR Part 39

[Docket No. 2003-NM-204-AD]

RIN 2120-AA64

#### **Airworthiness Directives; Gulfstream Aerospace LP Model Astra SPX and 1125 Westwind Astra Series Airplanes; and Model Gulfstream 100 Airplanes**

**AGENCY:** Federal Aviation Administration, DOT.

**ACTION:** Notice of proposed rulemaking (NPRM).

**SUMMARY:** This document proposes the adoption of a new airworthiness directive (AD) that is applicable to certain Gulfstream Aerospace LP Model Astra SPX, and 1125 Westwind Astra series airplanes; and Model Gulfstream 100 airplanes. This proposal would require a one-time inspection of the outboard doors of the main landing gear (MLG) for evidence of impact with the surrounding structure, and for damage to the door seals and seal channels; measurements for adequate gaps and clearances; and related investigative and corrective actions, if necessary. This action is necessary to prevent damage to or breakage of the MLG outboard doors, which could result in the loss of a door during flight, and consequent damage to the airplane and injury to people or damage to property on the ground. This action is intended to address the identified unsafe condition.

**DATES:** Comments must be received by June 2, 2004.

**ADDRESSES:** Submit comments in triplicate to the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), Transport Airplane Directorate, ANM-114, Attention: Rules Docket No. 2003-NM-204-AD, 1601 Lind Avenue, SW., Renton, Washington 98055-4056. Comments may be inspected at this location between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays. Comments may be submitted via fax to (425) 227-1232. Comments may also be sent via the Internet using

the following address: *9-anm-nprmcomment@faa.gov*. Comments sent via fax or the Internet must contain "Docket No. 2003-NM-204-AD" in the subject line and need not be submitted in triplicate. Comments sent via the Internet as attached electronic files must be formatted in Microsoft Word 97 or 2000 or ASCII text.

The service information referenced in the proposed rule may be obtained from Gulfstream Aerospace Corporation, P.O. Box 2206, Mail Station D25, Savannah, Georgia 31402. This information may be examined at the FAA, Transport Airplane Directorate, 1601 Lind Avenue, SW., Renton, Washington.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Dan Rodina, Aerospace Engineer, International Branch, ANM-116, FAA, Transport Airplane Directorate, 1601 Lind Avenue, SW., Renton, Washington 98055-4056; telephone (425) 227-2125; fax (425) 227-1149.

#### **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

##### **Comments Invited**

Interested persons are invited to participate in the making of the proposed rule by submitting such written data, views, or arguments as they may desire. Communications shall identify the Rules Docket number and be submitted in triplicate to the address specified above. All communications received on or before the closing date for comments, specified above, will be considered before taking action on the proposed rule. The proposals contained in this action may be changed in light of the comments received.

Submit comments using the following format:

- Organize comments issue-by-issue. For example, discuss a request to change the compliance time and a request to change the service bulletin reference as two separate issues.
- For each issue, state what specific change to the proposed AD is being requested.
- Include justification (e.g., reasons or data) for each request.

Comments are specifically invited on the overall regulatory, economic, environmental, and energy aspects of the proposed rule. All comments submitted will be available, both before and after the closing date for comments, in the Rules Docket for examination by interested persons. A report summarizing each FAA-public contact concerned with the substance of this proposal will be filed in the Rules Docket.

Commenters wishing the FAA to acknowledge receipt of their comments submitted in response to this action

must submit a self-addressed, stamped postcard on which the following statement is made: "Comments to Docket Number 2003-NM-204-AD." The postcard will be date stamped and returned to the commenter.

#### **Availability of NPRMs**

Any person may obtain a copy of this NPRM by submitting a request to the FAA, Transport Airplane Directorate, ANM-114, Attention: Rules Docket No. 2003-NM-204-AD, 1601 Lind Avenue, SW., Renton, Washington 98055-4056.

#### **Discussion**

The Civil Aviation Administration of Israel (CAAI), which is the airworthiness authority for Israel, notified the FAA that an unsafe condition may exist on certain Gulfstream Aerospace LP Model Astra SPX, and 1125 Westwind Astra series airplanes; and Model Gulfstream 100 airplanes. The CAAI advises that at least six cases of damage and/or breakage of the outboard doors of the main landing gear (MLG) have been reported, which were caused by insufficient clearance or interference with the surrounding structure. This condition, if not corrected, could result in damage to or breakage of the MLG outboard doors, which could cause the loss of a door during flight, and consequent damage to the airplane and injury to people or damage to property on the ground.

#### **Explanation of Relevant Service Information**

Gulfstream Aerospace LP has issued Service Bulletin 100-32-223, Revision 2, dated June 2, 2003, which describes procedures for accomplishing the following actions on the left and right MLG outboard doors:

- An inspection for evidence of impact with the surrounding structure (including evidence of the edge of the door hitting the wing or wing fairing when the door closes; and damage to the door seals and door seal channels, which includes tears, scratches, and rub marks).
- Measurement of the gap clearance of the forward and aft edges of the door.
- Measurement of the clearance between the hinge taper fillers and the door opening in the wing lower skin.

For doors on which evidence of impact with the surrounding structure is found, the service bulletin describes procedures for related investigative action, which includes doing an inspection for delamination or cracking at the door hinge area and at locations on the door where it hit the wing fairing. If any cracking or delamination is found, the service bulletin