

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 removing amendment 39-9712 (61 FR 41957, August 13, 1996), and by adding a new airworthiness directive (AD), to read as follows:

**Boeing:** Docket 99-NM-320-AD. Supersedes AD 96-17-04, Amendment 39-9712.

**Applicability:** Model 737-100 and -200 series airplanes, line numbers 001 through 813 inclusive, certificated in any category.

**Note 1:** This AD applies to each airplane identified in the preceding applicability provision, regardless of whether it has been modified, altered, or repaired in the area subject to the requirements of this AD. For airplanes that have been modified, altered, or repaired so that the performance of the requirements of this AD is affected, the owner/operator must request approval for an alternative method of compliance in accordance with paragraph (d) of this AD. The request should include an assessment of the effect of the modification, alteration, or repair on the unsafe condition addressed by this AD; and, if the unsafe condition has not been eliminated, the request should include specific proposed actions to address it.

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

To prevent possible failure of one or more hydraulic systems and consequent reduced controllability of the airplane, accomplish the following:

#### Restatement of Requirements of AD 96-17-04:

##### Repetitive Inspections

(a) Within one year after September 17, 1996 (the effective date of AD 96-17-04, amendment 39-9712), perform an eddy current inspection to detect cracking of the support fitting of the Krueger flap actuator on each wing, in accordance with Boeing Service Bulletin 737-57-1129, Revision 1, dated October 30, 1981, as revised by Notices of Status Change 737-57-1129NSC1, dated July 23, 1982; 737-57-1129 NSC2, dated April 14, 1983; and 737-57-1129 NSC 3, dated May 18, 1995; or Revision 2, dated May 28, 1998.

(1) If no cracking is detected, repeat the inspection required by paragraph (a) of this AD thereafter at intervals not to exceed 3,000 hours time-in-service.

(2) If any cracking is detected, prior to further flight, accomplish the replacement and modification specified in paragraph (b) of this AD.

#### New Requirements of This AD:

##### Terminating Action

(b) Within 5 years after the effective date of this AD: Replace any existing aluminum support fitting of the Krueger flap actuator on each wing with a steel fitting, and modify the actuator aft attachment, in accordance with Boeing Service Bulletin 737-57-1129, Revision 2, dated May 28, 1998. Accomplishment of this replacement and modification constitutes terminating action for the repetitive inspections required by paragraph (a) of this AD.

**Note 2:** Replacement of the existing aluminum support fitting of the Krueger flap actuator on each wing with a steel fitting, and modification of the actuator aft attachment, prior to the effective date of this AD, in accordance with Boeing Service Bulletin 737-57-1129, Revision 1, dated October 30, 1981, as revised by Notices of Status Change 737-57-1129NSC1, dated July 23, 1982; 737-57-1129 NSC2, dated April 14, 1983; and 737-57-1129 NSC 3, dated May 18, 1995; is considered acceptable for compliance with the modification required by paragraph (b) of this AD.

##### Spares

(c) As of the effective date of this AD, no person shall install on any airplane any aluminum support fitting identified in the "Existing Part Number" column of Paragraph 2.D. of Boeing Service Bulletin 737-57-1129, Revision 2, dated May 28, 1998.

##### Alternative Methods of Compliance

(d) An alternative method of compliance or adjustment of the compliance time that provides an acceptable level of safety may be used if approved by the Manager, Seattle Aircraft Certification Office (ACO), FAA, Transport Airplane Directorate. Operators shall submit their requests through an

appropriate FAA Principal Maintenance Inspector, who may add comments and then send it to the Manager, Seattle ACO.

**Note 3:** Information concerning the existence of approved alternative methods of compliance with this AD, if any, may be obtained from the Seattle ACO.

##### Special Flight Permits

(e) Special flight permits may be issued in accordance with §§ 21.197 and 21.199 of the Federal Aviation Regulations (14 CFR 21.197 and 21.199) to operate the airplane to a location where the requirements of this AD can be accomplished.

Issued in Renton, Washington, on March 9, 2000.

**Donald L. Riggins,**

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

[FR Doc. 00-6333 Filed 3-14-00; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4910-13-U**

#### DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

#### Federal Aviation Administration

#### 14 CFR Part 39

[Docket No. 2000-NM-13-AD]

RIN 2120-AA64

#### Airworthiness Directives; Saab Model SAAB 340B 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 Saab Model SAAB 340B series airplanes. This proposal would require a one-time inspection to detect discrepancies of the flight idle stop override mechanism, and corrective action, if necessary. This proposal is prompted by issuance of mandatory continuing airworthiness information by a foreign civil airworthiness authority. The actions specified by the proposed AD are intended to prevent increased braking distance for landings that require the flight idle stop override, resulting from the combination of failure of the override mechanism and inability of the power levers to be moved below the flight idle position after touchdown.

**DATES:** Comments must be received by April 14, 2000.

**ADDRESSES:** Submit comments in triplicate to the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), Transport Airplane Directorate, ANM-114, Attention: Rules Docket No. 2000-NM-13-AD, 1601 Lind Avenue, SW., Renton, Washington 98055-4056. Comments may be inspected at this location between 9:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays.

The service information referenced in the proposed rule may be obtained from Saab Aircraft AB, SAAB Aircraft.. Product Support, S-581.88, Linköping, Sweden. This information may be examined at the FAA, Transport Airplane Directorate, 1601 Lind Avenue, SW., Renton, Washington.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Norman B. Martenson, Manager, International Branch, ANM-116, FAA, Transport Airplane Directorate, 1601 Lind Avenue, SW., Renton, Washington 98055-4056; telephone (425) 227-2110; 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 notice may be changed in light of the comments received.

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 notice must submit a self-addressed, stamped postcard on which the following statement is made: "Comments to Docket Number 2000-NM-13-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. 2000-NM-13-AD, 1601 Lind Avenue, SW., Renton, Washington 98055-4056.

**Discussion**

The Luftfartsverket (LFV), which is the airworthiness authority for Sweden, notified the FAA that an unsafe condition may exist on certain Saab Model SAAB 340B series airplanes. The LFV advises that it received a report of an incident in which a flight crew, when attempting to use the automatic flight idle stop override that was required during landing, discovered that the override knob was stuck in position in the control quadrant. Subsequent inspection of the override knob mechanism revealed that cablewire was stuck in its conduit between the knob and the uplock mechanism. It appeared that the cablewire may have become stuck during modification of the control quadrant for installation of the automatic flight idle stop. Similar sticking may occur on other airplanes that have been modified in a similar manner. This condition, if not corrected, could result in inability to move the power levers below the flight idle position after touchdown, which could result in increased braking distance.

**Other Related Rulemaking**

On April 6, 1998, the FAA issued AD 98-08-16, amendment 39-10465 (63 FR 5902, April 14, 1998), applicable to certain Saab Model SAAB SF340A and 340B series airplanes, which currently requires a one-time inspection to detect discrepancies of the flight idle stop override mechanism, and corrective action, if necessary. That AD was prompted by issuance of mandatory continuing airworthiness information by the LFV (Swedish airworthiness directive 1-116, dated June 9, 1997). The actions required by that AD are intended to prevent increased braking distance for landings that require the flight idle stop override, resulting from the combination of failure of the override mechanism and inability of the power levers to be moved below the flight idle position after touchdown.

Since issuance of that AD, the FAA has determined that the same unsafe condition addressed in that AD may exist on certain additional Saab Model SAAB 340B series airplanes. Those airplanes (identified as serial numbers -380 through -404 inclusive, -406 through -408 inclusive, and -410 through -413 inclusive) were omitted inadvertently from the applicability of AD 98-08-16 (those airplanes had also been excluded inadvertently from the effectivity of Swedish airworthiness

directive 1-116). Therefore, those additional airplanes are also subject to the same unsafe condition addressed in AD 98-08-16.

**Explanation of Relevant Service Information**

Saab has issued Service Bulletin 340-76-041, dated May 29, 1997, and Revision 01, dated July 2, 1997, which describe procedures for a one-time inspection to detect whether the override knob moves freely without scratching or jamming in the control quadrant. For any discrepant mechanism, this service bulletin describes procedures for replacement of the control quadrant with a new or serviceable control quadrant. The procedures in the original version and Revision 01 of the service bulletin are the same; Revision 01 was issued to incorporate certain minor clarifications of the procedures. The LFV classified this service bulletin as mandatory and issued Swedish airworthiness directive SAD 1-148, dated November 18, 1999, in order to ensure the continued airworthiness of these airplanes in Sweden.

**FAA's Conclusions**

This airplane model is manufactured in Sweden and is type certificated for operation in the United States under the provisions of § 21.29 of the Federal Aviation Regulations (14 CFR 21.29) and the applicable bilateral airworthiness agreement. Pursuant to this bilateral airworthiness agreement, the LFV has kept the FAA informed of the situation described above. The FAA has examined the findings of the LFV, reviewed all available information, and determined that AD action is necessary for products of this type design that are certificated for operation in the United States.

**Explanation of Requirements of Proposed Rule**

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

**Cost Impact**

The FAA estimates that 31 airplanes of U.S. registry would be affected by this proposed AD, that it would take approximately 1 work hour per airplane to accomplish the proposed actions, and that the average labor rate is \$60 per work hour. Based on these figures, the cost impact of the proposed AD on U.S.

operators is estimated to be \$1,860, or \$60 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 AD were not adopted.

### 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:

**Saab Aircraft AB:** Docket 2000–NM–13–AD. *Applicability:* Model SAAB 340B series airplanes, certificated in any category; serial numbers –380 through –404 inclusive, –406

through –408 inclusive, and –410 through –413 inclusive.

**Note 1:** This AD applies to each airplane identified in the preceding applicability provision, regardless of whether it has been modified, altered, or repaired in the area subject to the requirements of this AD. For airplanes that have been modified, altered, or repaired so that the performance of the requirements of this AD is affected, the owner/operator must request approval for an alternative method of compliance in accordance with paragraph (b) of this AD. The request should include an assessment of the effect of the modification, alteration, or repair on the unsafe condition addressed by this AD; and, if the unsafe condition has not been eliminated, the request should include specific proposed actions to address it.

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

To prevent increased braking distance for landings that require the flight idle stop override, resulting from the combination of failure of the override mechanism and inability of the power levers to be moved below the flight idle position after touchdown, accomplish the following:

### Inspection

(a) Within 30 days after the effective date of this AD, perform a one-time inspection of the flight idle stop override mechanism to detect any discrepancy, in accordance with Saab Service Bulletin 340–76–041, dated May 29, 1997, or Revision 01, dated July 2, 1997. If any discrepancy is found, prior to further flight, replace the control quadrant with a new or serviceable control quadrant in accordance with the service bulletin.

### Alternative Methods of Compliance

(b) An alternative method of compliance or adjustment of the compliance time that provides an acceptable level of safety may be used if approved by the Manager, International Branch, ANM–116, FAA, Transport Airplane Directorate. Operators shall submit their requests through an appropriate FAA Principal Maintenance Inspector, who may add comments and then send it to the Manager, International Branch, ANM–116.

**Note 2:** Information concerning the existence of approved alternative methods of compliance with this AD, if any, may be obtained from the International Branch, ANM–116.

### Special Flight Permits

(c) Special flight permits may be issued in accordance with §§ 21.197 and 21.199 of the Federal Aviation Regulations (14 CFR 21.197 and 21.199) to operate the airplane to a location where the requirements of this AD can be accomplished.

**Note 3:** The subject of this AD is addressed in Swedish airworthiness directive 1–148, dated November 18, 1999.

Issued in Renton, Washington, on March 9, 2000.

**Franklin Tiangsing,**

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

[FR Doc. 00–6332 Filed 3–14–00; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4910–13–U**

## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

### Federal Aviation Administration

### 14 CFR Part 39

[Docket No. 2000–NM–02–AD]

RIN 2120–AA64

### Airworthiness Directives; Fokker Model F.28 Mark 0100 Series Airplanes

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

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

**SUMMARY:** This document proposes the superseding of an existing airworthiness directive (AD), applicable to certain Fokker Model F.28 Mark 0100 series airplanes, that currently requires a one-time visual inspection and a one-time eddy current and/or dye penetrant inspection of the nose landing gear (NLG) main fitting to detect cracking; and rework of the NLG main fitting, if necessary. This action would require new inspections (one-time detailed visual inspection and repetitive eddy current or dye penetrant inspections) to detect cracking of the NLG main fitting subassembly, and corrective actions, if necessary. This action also would revise the applicability of the existing AD. This proposal is prompted by the issuance of mandatory continuing airworthiness information by a foreign civil airworthiness authority. The actions specified by the proposed AD are intended to prevent cracking of the NLG main fitting, which could lead to collapse of the NLG during takeoff and landing, and possible injury to the flightcrew and passengers.

**DATES:** Comments must be received by April 14, 2000.

**ADDRESSES:** Submit comments in triplicate to the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), Transport Airplane Directorate, ANM–114, Attention: Rules Docket No. 2000–NM–02–AD, 1601 Lind Avenue, SW., Renton, Washington 98055–4056. Comments may be inspected at this location between 9:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays.

The service information referenced in the proposed rule may be obtained from