

Issued in Renton, Washington, on March 13, 2001.

**Donald L. Riggins,**

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

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## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

### Federal Aviation Administration

#### 14 CFR Part 39

[Docket No. 2000-NM-322-AD]

RIN 2120-AA64

#### **Airworthiness Directives; McDonnell Douglas Model DC-9-81, -82, -83, and -87 Series Airplanes, and MD-88 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 McDonnell Douglas Model DC-9-81, -82, -83, and -87 Series Airplanes, and MD-88 airplanes. This proposal would require revising the wiring of the selective calling (SELCAL) system. This action is necessary to prevent inadvertent very high frequency transmissions and subsequent loss of radio communications for airplane and/or airport operations; and to prevent inadvertent high frequency transmissions and subsequent electrical shock to ground service personnel and/or damage to the airplane during fueling operations or fuel tank maintenance. This action is intended to address the identified unsafe condition.

**DATES:** Comments must be received by May 4, 2001.

**ADDRESSES:** Submit comments in triplicate to the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), Transport Airplane Directorate, ANM-114, Attention: Rules Docket No. 2000-NM-322-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. 2000-NM-322-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 for Windows or ASCII text.

The service information referenced in the proposed rule may be obtained from Boeing Commercial Aircraft Group, Long Beach Division, 3855 Lakewood Boulevard, Long Beach, California 90846, Attention: Technical Publications Business Administration, Dept. C1-L51 (2-60). This information may be examined at the FAA, Transport Airplane Directorate, 1601 Lind Avenue, SW., Renton, Washington; or at the FAA, Los Angeles Aircraft Certification Office, 3960 Paramount Boulevard, Lakewood, California.

#### **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

George Mabuni, Aerospace Engineer, Systems and Equipment Branch, ANM-130L; FAA, Los Angeles Aircraft Certification Office, 3960 Paramount Boulevard, Lakewood, California 90712-4137; telephone (562) 627-5341; fax (562) 627-5210.

#### **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 2000-NM-322-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-322-AD, 1601 Lind Avenue, SW., Renton, Washington 98055-4056.

##### **Discussion**

The FAA has received a report indicating that, whenever any reset buttons of the Gables five channel selective calling (SELCAL) control panel are pressed, inadvertent high frequency (HF) and very high frequency (VHF) radio transmissions occur on the SELCAL control panel of McDonnell Douglas Model DC-9-81, -82, -83, and -87 series airplanes, and MD-88 airplanes. The inadvertent HF or VHF transmissions are identified as an "OPEN MIC" signal, which results in blocking the selected radio frequency while the reset button is pressed. During inadvertent VHF transmissions, this blocking could cause the loss of radio communications for airplane and/or airport operations. Additionally, during inadvertent HF transmissions, there exists a potential radio frequency power hazard from the HF antenna, which could result in electrical shock to ground service personnel and/or damage to the airplane during fueling operations or fuel tank maintenance.

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

The FAA has reviewed and approved Boeing Alert Service Bulletin MD80-23A100, Revision 02, dated February 8, 2001, which describes procedures for revising the wiring of the SELCAL system (including installing up to five diodes and reidentifying existing wires with sleeving). 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 208 Model DC-9-81, -82, -83, and -87 series airplanes, and MD-88 airplanes of the affected design in the worldwide fleet. The FAA estimates that 157 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 \$60 per work hour. Required parts would cost approximately \$22 per airplane. Based on these figures, the cost impact of the proposed AD on U.S. operators is estimated to be \$22,294, or \$142 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.

## 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:

**McDonnell Douglas:** Docket 2000-NM-322-AD.

**Applicability:** Model DC-9-81, -82, -83, and -87 series airplanes, and MD-88 airplanes, as listed in Boeing Alert Service Bulletin MD80-23A100, Revision 02, dated February 8, 2001; 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 (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 inadvertent very high frequency transmissions and subsequent loss of radio communications for airplane and/or airport operations; and to prevent inadvertent high frequency transmissions and subsequent electrical shock to ground service personnel and/or damage to the airplane during fueling operations or fuel tank maintenance, accomplish the following:

#### Revise Wiring

(a) Within 6 months after the effective date of this AD, revise the wiring of the selective calling (SELCAL) system (including installing up to five diodes and reidentifying existing wires with sleeving), per Boeing Alert Service Bulletin MD80-23A100, Revision 02, dated February 8, 2001.

**Note 2:** Revision of the wiring of the SELCAL done before the effective date of this AD, per Boeing Alert Service Bulletin MD80-23A100, Revision 01, dated August 24, 2000, is considered acceptable for compliance with the requirements of paragraph (a) of this AD.

#### 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, Los Angeles Aircraft Certification Office (ACO), FAA. Operators shall submit their requests through an appropriate FAA Principal Maintenance Inspector, who may add comments and then send it to the Manager, Los Angeles ACO.

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

#### Special Flight Permit

(c) Special flight permits may be issued in accordance with sections 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.

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**Donald L. Riggins,**

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

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## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

### Federal Aviation Administration

#### 14 CFR Part 39

[Docket No. 2000-NM-257-AD]

RIN 2120-AA64

#### Airworthiness Directives; Empresa Brasileira de Aeronautica S.A. (EMBRAER) Model EMB-135 and -145 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 all EMBRAER Model EMB-145 series airplanes, that currently requires repetitive replacement of the bleed-air check valve and associated gaskets on the bleed low-pressure line of the engine, with new parts. This action would continue to require repetitive replacement of the bleed-air check valve and associated gaskets. Additionally, this action would require repetitive replacement of an additional bleed-air check valve with a check valve having the same part number or a new improved check valve; eventual replacement of the bleed-air check valves with new improved check valves and various follow-on actions; and would add airplanes to the applicability of the existing AD. This proposal is prompted by issuance of mandatory