



[4910-13-P]

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Aviation Administration

14 CFR Part 39

[Docket No. FAA-2019-0207; Product Identifier 2019-NE-02-AD; Amendment 39-19703; AD 2019-15-10]

RIN 2120-AA64

Airworthiness Directives; Safran Aerosystems Life Jackets

AGENCY: Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), DOT.

ACTION: Final rule.

SUMMARY: The FAA is adopting a new airworthiness directive (AD) for certain Safran Aerosystems (formerly Zodiac Aerospace Services) life jackets. This AD was prompted by reports of defective welding on certain life jackets around the inflation system. This AD requires removal and replacement of the affected life jackets. The FAA is issuing this AD to address the unsafe condition on these products.

DATES: This AD is effective [INSERT DATE 35 DAYS AFTER DATE OF PUBLICATION IN THE FEDERAL REGISTER].

The Director of the Federal Register approved the incorporation by reference of certain publications listed in this AD as of [INSERT DATE 35 DAYS AFTER DATE OF PUBLICATION IN THE FEDERAL REGISTER].

ADDRESSES: For service information identified in this final rule, contact Zodiac Aerospace Services, 61 Rue Pierre Curie, CS20001, 78370 Plaisir Cedex, France; phone: + 33 1 61 34 23 23; fax: + 33 1 61 34 21 13; email: Technical.Retrofit@zodiacaeospace.com; Internet: <http://tpi.services.zodiacaeospace.com>. You may view this service information at the FAA, Engine and Propeller Standards Branch, 1200 District Avenue, Burlington, MA, 01803. For information on the availability of this material at the FAA, call 781-238-7759.

It is also available on the Internet at <http://www.regulations.gov> by searching for and locating Docket No. FAA-2019-0207.

Examining the AD Docket

You may examine the AD docket on the Internet at <http://www.regulations.gov> by searching for and locating Docket No. FAA-2019-0207; or in person at Docket Operations between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays. The AD docket contains this final rule, the mandatory continuing airworthiness information (MCAI), the regulatory evaluation, any comments received, and other information. The address for Docket Operations is U.S. Department of Transportation, Docket Operations, M-30, West Building Ground Floor, Room W12-140, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE., Washington, DC, 20590.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Erin King, Aerospace Engineer, Boston ACO Branch, FAA, 1200 District Avenue, Burlington, MA, 01803; phone 781-238-7655; fax: 781-238-7199; email: erin.king@faa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Discussion

The FAA issued a notice of proposed rulemaking (NPRM) to amend 14 CFR part 39 by adding an AD that would apply to certain Safran Aerosystems life jackets. The NPRM published in the Federal Register on April 15, 2019 (84 FR 15160). The NPRM was prompted by reports of defective welding on certain life jackets around the inflation system. The NPRM proposed to require removal and replacement of the affected life jackets. The FAA is issuing this AD to address the unsafe condition on these products.

The European Union Aviation Safety Agency (EASA), which is the Technical Agent for the Member States of the European Community, has issued EASA AD 2019-0010, dated January 23, 2019 (referred to after this as “the MCAI”), to address the unsafe condition on these products. The MCAI states:

Defective welding around the inflation system has been reportedly found on certain life jackets on the production line. Subsequent investigation results identified a batch of life jackets which might be affected by this manufacturing defect.

This condition, if not corrected, could lead to inability of the life jacket to perform its intended function, possible resulting in injury to the user of that life jacket.

To address this potential unsafe condition, Safran Aerosystems issued the SB, providing the list of affected parts, and the repair SB, providing instructions to repair affected parts.

For the reason described above, this [EASA] AD requires replacement of affected life jackets, and allows their (re)installation on an aircraft only after having being repaired.

You may obtain further information by examining the MCAI in the AD docket on the Internet at <http://www.regulations.gov> by searching for and locating Docket No. FAA-2019-0207.

Comments

The FAA gave the public the opportunity to participate in developing this final rule. The following presents the comments received on the NPRM and the FAA's response to each comment.

Request to Update Service Information

Alaska Airlines, Inc. (ASA) and Empire Airlines requested that the FAA update all references to Zodiac Aerospace Services Service Bulletin (SB) 25-65-33, Revision 01, dated January 8, 2019, and Zodiac Aerospace Services SB 25-65-34, Original Issue, dated January 8, 2019, to Revision 02 and Revision 01, respectively. ASA indicated that updated service information was published during the NPRM commenting period, and

updating this information would avoid the need for operators to submit alternative methods of compliance requests.

The FAA agrees to incorporate the latest service information in this AD.

Request for Previous Credit

ASA requested the final rule include a “Credit for Previous Actions” paragraph allowing credit for performing the inspection using Zodiac Aerospace Services SB 25-65-33, Revision 01, dated January 8, 2019, or performing the modification using Zodiac Aerospace Services SB 25-65-34, Original Issue, dated January 8, 2019.

The FAA partially agrees. As noted in the previous response, the FAA agrees with incorporating the latest service information in the applicability section and the definition section of this AD. The FAA notes the applicability of this AD and the definition of a part eligible of installation has not changed as the information in Table 1 of Revision 02 and Revision 01 of Zodiac Aerospace Services SB 25-65-33 is identical. Therefore, the FAA is not referencing Revision 01 of Zodiac Aerospace Services SB 25-65-33 in this AD and previous credit is not required.

The FAA has also revised the Installation Prohibition section of this AD to allow the use of either Zodiac Aerospace Services SB 25-65-34, Revision 01, dated March 15, 2019, or Original Issue, dated January 8, 2019, to perform the repair and marking. The FAA, therefore, does not require a previous credit section in this AD.

Request to Clarify the Eligible for Installation Definition

ASA requested that the FAA clarify the definition of a life jacket eligible for installation. ASA proposed defining a life jacket eligible for installation as one that is “not applicable” to Zodiac Aerospace Services SB 25-65-33, Revision 02, dated March 15, 2019, or one that is repaired in accordance with Zodiac Aerospace Services SB 25-65-34, Revision 01, dated March 15, 2019.

The FAA agrees. The FAA clarifies the definition of a life jacket eligible for installation in this AD.

Support for the NPRM

Several individual commenters expressed support for the NPRM. One commenter supported the NPRM but noted that cost should be a secondary consideration in determining whether to issue an AD on a potentially life-saving component. Another commenter supported the NPRM but added that all Safran Aerosystems life jackets should be removed from airplanes for safety precautions and passengers on the airplanes should be informed of the issue and know that it is being addressed.

The FAA partially agrees. The FAA agrees with the importance of this AD action because life jackets are potentially life-saving devices and must be in working condition. The FAA also notes that it considers cost when developing rules, but its primary consideration is safety.

The FAA disagrees with expanding the applicability of this AD to all Safran Aerosystems life jackets because the information relied upon by the FAA indicates an unsafe condition exists only with respect to those life jackets identified in the Applicability section of this AD. Passengers who wish to find information on safety issues related to specific model aircraft, engines, propellers, or associated appliances may view airworthiness directives at www.regulations.gov. The FAA did not change this AD.

Conclusion

The FAA reviewed the relevant data, considered the comments received, and determined that air safety and the public interest require adopting this final rule with the changes described previously and minor editorial changes. The FAA has determined that these minor changes:

- Are consistent with the intent that was proposed in the NPRM for addressing the unsafe condition; and

- Do not add any additional burden upon the public than was already proposed in the NPRM.

The FAA also determined that these changes will not increase the economic burden on any operator or increase the scope of this final rule.

Related Service Information under 1 CFR Part 51

The FAA reviewed Zodiac Aerospace Services SB 25-65-33, Revision 02, dated March 15, 2019, and Zodiac Aerospace Services SB 25-65-34, Revision 01, dated March 15, 2019. Zodiac Aerospace Services SB 25-65-33 identifies the affected life jackets by part number and serial number. Zodiac Aerospace Services SB 25-65-34 describes procedures for repairing and marking the affected life jackets. This service information is reasonably available because the interested parties have access to it through their normal course of business or by the means identified in the ADDRESSES section.

Costs of Compliance

The FAA estimates that this AD affects an unknown number of life jackets installed on, but not limited to, ATR-GIE Avions de Transport Regional ATR 42 and ATR 72, Airbus A318/A319/A320/A321, Airbus A330, Airbus A340, Airbus A350, and Airbus A380 airplanes of U.S. registry. Operators have the option to replace or repair the affected life jackets. The FAA has no way of determining the number of life jackets that might be replaced or repaired.

The FAA estimates the following costs to comply with this AD:

Estimated costs

Action	Labor cost	Parts cost	Cost per product
Inspect life jacket	0.1 work-hours X \$85 per hour = \$8.50	\$0	\$8.50
Replace life jacket	0.5 work-hours X \$85 per hour =	\$96	\$138.50

Action	Labor cost	Parts cost	Cost per product
	\$42.50		
Repair life jacket	0.5 work-hours X \$85 per hour = \$42.50	\$0	\$42.50

According to the manufacturer, some of the costs of this AD may be covered under warranty, thereby reducing the cost impact on affected individuals. The FAA does not control warranty coverage for affected individuals. As a result, the FAA has included all costs in our cost estimate.

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.

The FAA is 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.

This AD is issued in accordance with authority delegated by the Executive Director, Aircraft Certification Service, as authorized by FAA Order 8000.51C. In accordance with that order, issuance of ADs is normally a function of the Compliance and Airworthiness Division, but during this transition period, the Executive Director has delegated the authority to issue ADs applicable to engines, propellers, and associated

appliances to the Manager, Engine and Propeller Standards Branch, Policy and Innovation Division.

Regulatory Findings

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) Will not affect intrastate aviation in Alaska, 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.

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 airworthiness directive (AD):

2019-15-10 **Safran Aerosystems (formerly Zodiac Aerospace Services):** Amendment 39-19703; Docket No. FAA-2019-0207; Product Identifier 2019-NE-02-AD.

(a) Effective Date

This AD is effective [INSERT DATE 35 DAYS AFTER DATE OF PUBLICATION IN THE FEDERAL REGISTER].

(b) Affected ADs

None.

(c) Applicability

(1) This AD applies to Safran Aerosystems life jackets with part number (P/N) 210225-2, P/N 216200-0, or P/N 216203-0, and with a serial number listed in Table 1 of Zodiac Aerospace Services Service Bulletin (SB) 25-65-33, Revision 02, dated March 15, 2019, that are not marked with “Mod.per SB 25-65-34” in the identification area.

(2) These appliances are installed on, but not limited to, ATR-GIE Avions de Transport Regional ATR 42 and ATR 72, Airbus A318/A319/A320/A321, Airbus A330, Airbus A340, Airbus A350, and Airbus A380 airplanes.

(d) Subject

Joint Aircraft System Component (JASC) Code 2561, Life Jacket.

(e) Unsafe Condition

This AD was prompted by reports of defective welding on certain life jackets around the inflation system. The FAA is issuing this AD to prevent failure of the life jacket. The unsafe condition, if not addressed, could result in injury to the wearer of the life jacket.

(f) Compliance

Comply with this AD within the compliance times specified, unless already done.

(g) Required Actions

Within six months after the effective date of this AD, remove each affected life jacket from the airplane and, before further flight, replace the life jacket with a life jacket eligible for installation.

(h) Installation Prohibition

After the effective date of this AD, do not install on any airplane an affected life jacket unless it has been repaired and marked to indicate compliance with such repair in accordance with Zodiac Aerospace Services SB 25-65-34, Revision 01, dated March 15, 2019, or Original Issue, dated January 8, 2019; or a method approved by the FAA.

(i) Definition

A life jacket eligible for installation is a new life jacket not listed in Table 1 of Zodiac Aerospace Services SB 25-65-33, Revision 02, dated March 15, 2019, or a life jacket repaired in accordance with Zodiac Aerospace Services SB 25-65-34, Revision 01, dated March 15, 2019, or Original Issue, dated January 8, 2019; or by a method approved by the FAA.

(j) Alternative Methods of Compliance (AMOCs)

(1) The Manager, Boston ACO Branch, 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 manager of the ACO Branch, send it to the attention of the person identified in paragraph (k)(1) of this AD.

(2) 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.

(k) Related Information

(1) For more information about this AD, contact Erin King, Aerospace Engineer, Boston ACO Branch, FAA, 1200 District Avenue, Burlington, MA, 01803; phone 781-238-7655; fax: 781-238-7199; email: erin.king@faa.gov.

(2) Refer to European Union Aviation Safety Agency (EASA) AD 2019-0010, dated January 23, 2019, for more information. You may examine the EASA AD in the AD docket on the Internet at <http://www.regulations.gov> by searching for and locating Docket No. FAA-2019-0207.

(I) Material Incorporated by Reference

(1) The Director of the Federal Register approved the incorporation by reference (IBR) of the service information listed in this paragraph under 5 U.S.C. 552(a) and 1 CFR part 51.

(2) You must use this service information as applicable to do the actions required by this AD, unless the AD specifies otherwise.

(i) Zodiac Aerospace Services Service Bulletin (SB) 25-65-33, Revision 02, dated March 15, 2019.

(ii) Zodiac Aerospace Services SB 25-65-34, Revision 01, dated March 15, 2019.

(3) For Safran Aerosystems service information identified in this AD, contact Zodiac Aerospace Services, 61 Rue Pierre Curie, CS20001, 78370 Plaisir Cedex, France; phone: + 33 1 61 34 23 23; fax: + 33 1 61 34 21 13; email: Technical.Retrofit@zodiacaerospace.com; Internet: <http://tpi.services.zodiacaerospace.com>.

(4) You may view this service information at the FAA, Engine & Propeller Standards Branch, 1200 District Avenue, Burlington, MA, 01803. For information on the availability of this material at the FAA, call 781-238-7759.

(5) You may view this service information that is incorporated by reference 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 Burlington, Massachusetts, on August 2, 2019.

Karen M. Grant,
Acting Manager, Engine and Propeller Standards Branch,
Aircraft Certification Service.
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