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[4910-13-P]

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Aviation Administration

14 CFR Part 39

[Docket No. FAA-2026-13802; Project Identifier AD-2026-00597-T]

RIN 2120-AA64

Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes

AGENCY: Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), DOT.

ACTION: Notice of proposed rulemaking (NPRM).

SUMMARY: The FAA proposes to adopt a new airworthiness directive (AD) for certain The Boeing Company Model 787-8 airplanes. This proposed AD was prompted by a report that certain wing skin outer mold line (OML) penetrating fasteners installed using threaded nuts without cap seals do not provide reliable protection against potential ignition sources when subjected to direct attachment lightning currents. This proposed AD would require inspecting between certain ribs on the left and right wing for wing skin penetrating fasteners with a threaded nut adjacent to the electromagnetic effects (EME) sleeve; inspecting the left and right wing fuel tanks, surge tanks, and dry bays for threaded nuts installed on fasteners that penetrate the upper and lower wing skins; accomplishing the inspection specified in a certain airworthiness limitation (AWL); and applicable on-condition actions. This proposed AD would also require accomplishing concurrent requirements and revising the maintenance program to incorporate the airworthiness limitation task. The FAA is proposing this AD to address the unsafe condition on these products.

DATES: The FAA must receive comments on this proposed AD by [INSERT DATE 45 DAYS AFTER DATE OF PUBLICATION IN THE FEDERAL REGISTER].

ADDRESSES: You may send comments, using the procedures found in 14 CFR 11.43 and 11.45, by any of the following methods:

• Federal eRulemaking Portal: Go to regulations.gov. Follow the instructions for submitting comments.

• Fax: 202-493-2251.

• Mail: U.S. Department of Transportation, Docket Operations, M-30, West Building Ground Floor, Room W12-140, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE, Washington, DC 20590.

• Hand Delivery: Deliver to Mail address above between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays.

AD Docket: You may examine the AD docket at regulations.gov under Docket No. FAA-2026-13802; 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 NPRM, any comments received, and other information. The street address for Docket Operations is listed above.

Material Incorporated by Reference:

• For Boeing material identified in this proposed AD, contact Boeing Commercial Airplanes, Attention: Contractual & Data Services (C&DS), 2600 Westminster Blvd., MC 110-SK57, Seal Beach, CA 90740-5600; telephone 562-797-1717; website myboeingfleet.com.

• You may view this material at the FAA, Airworthiness Products Section, Operational Safety Branch, 2200 South 216th St., Des Moines, WA. For information on the availability of this material at the FAA, call 206-231-3195. It is also available at regulations.gov under Docket No. FAA-2026-13802.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Tak Kobayashi, Aviation Safety Engineer, FAA, 2200 South 216th St., Des Moines, WA 98198; phone: 206-231-3553; email: Takahisa.Kobayashi@faa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Comments Invited

The FAA invites you to send any written relevant data, views, or arguments about this proposal. Send your comments using a method listed under the ADDRESSES section. Include "Docket No. FAA-2026-13802; Project Identifier AD-2026-00597-T" at the beginning of your comments. The most helpful comments reference a specific portion of the proposal, explain the reason for any recommended change, and include supporting data. The FAA will consider all comments received by the closing date and may amend this proposal because of those comments.

Except for Confidential Business Information (CBI) as described in the following paragraph, and other information as described in 14 CFR 11.35, the FAA will post all comments received, without change, to regulations.gov, including any personal information you provide. The agency will also post a report summarizing each substantive verbal contact received about this NPRM.

Confidential Business Information

CBI is commercial or financial information that is both customarily and actually treated as private by its owner. Under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) (5 U.S.C. 552), CBI is exempt from public disclosure. If your comments responsive to this NPRM contain commercial or financial information that is customarily treated as private, that you actually treat as private, and that is relevant or responsive to this NPRM, it is important that you clearly designate the submitted comments as CBI. Please mark each page of your submission containing CBI as "PROPIN." The FAA will treat such marked submissions as confidential under the FOIA, and they will not be placed in the public

docket of this NPRM. Submissions containing CBI should be sent to Tak Kobayashi, Aviation Safety Engineer, FAA, 2200 South 216th St., Des Moines, WA 98198; phone: 206-231-3553; email: Takahisa.Kobayashi@faa.gov. Any commentary that the FAA receives that is not specifically designated as CBI will be placed in the public docket for this rulemaking.

Background

The FAA has received a report indicating that wing skin OML penetrating fasteners installed using threaded nuts without cap seals do not provide reliable protection against potential ignition sources when subject to direct attachment lightning currents. This condition, if not addressed, could lead to a potential ignition source inside the wing fuel tanks, surge tanks, or dry bays during a lightning strike event, which could result in a consequent fire or explosion.

FAA's Determination

The FAA is issuing this NPRM after determining that the unsafe condition described previously is likely to exist or develop on other products of the same type design.

Material Incorporated by Reference Under 1 CFR Part 51

The FAA reviewed Boeing Alert Requirements Bulletin B787-81205-SB570039-00 RB, Issue 001, dated June 8, 2026. This material specifies procedures for:

• Inspecting between rib 25 to rib 31 on the left and right wing for wing skin penetrating fasteners with a threaded nut adjacent to the EME sleeve.

• Inspecting the left and right wing fuel tanks, surge tanks, and dry bays for threaded nuts installed on fasteners that penetrate the upper and lower wing skin.

• Accomplishing the required actions in AWL No. 57-AWL-18 "Inspection Requirements for Cap Seals on In-Tank Fasteners between Side of Body (SOB) Rib and Rib 2".

• Incorporating AWL No. 57-AWL-18 into the maintenance program.

• Accomplishing concurrent requirements, including upper and lower panel stringer base flange edge seal inspection and seal application; and incorporating AWL No. 57-AWL-3 and AWL No. 57-AWL-19 into the maintenance program.

• And applicable on-condition actions. On-condition actions include replacing affected EME sleeves with a new EME sleeve at all affected locations; installing a cap seal on all wing skin penetrating fasteners found installed with a threaded nut; contacting The Boeing Company for repair instructions and doing the repair.

This material 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.

Proposed AD Requirements in this NPRM

This proposed AD would require accomplishing the actions specified in the material already described, except for any differences identified as exceptions in the regulatory text of this proposed AD. For information on the procedures, see this material at regulations.gov under Docket No. FAA-2026-13802.

Differences Between this Proposed AD and the Referenced Material

The condition for "all Table 1 Condition 1 and Condition 2 airplanes" in Table 2 of the Accomplishment Instructions of Boeing Alert Requirements Bulletin B787-81205-SB570039-00 RB, Issue 001, dated June 8, 2026, specifies to do the actions in AWL No. 57-AWL-18 "Inspection Requirements for Cap Seals on In-Tank Fasteners between Side of Body (SOB) Rib and Rib 2", which includes reporting. However, this proposed AD does not require the reporting within that AWL for that condition. The FAA has added paragraph (j) to this AD accordingly. The no reporting requirement only applies to the action that specifies to "Do the required actions in accordance with 787 SPECIAL COMPLIANCE ITEMS (SCI)/AIRWORTHINESS LIMITATIONS (AWL) document

D011Z009-03-04, TR 09-0001 or 787 SCI/AWL document D011Z009-03-04 that incorporates TR 09-0001, Airworthiness Limitation Instruction (ALI) 57-AWL-18 Inspection Requirements for Cap Seals on In-Tank Fasteners between Side of Body (SOB) Rib and Rib 2" in the Action column of the Accomplishment Instructions of Boeing Alert Requirements Bulletin B787-81205-SB570039-00 RB, Issue 001, dated June 8, 2026. This exemption from the reporting requirements applies only to compliance with this AD. If this inspection is performed as part of routine maintenance or any other requirement, the report must still be submitted as outlined in the AWL.

Costs of Compliance

The FAA estimates that this AD, if adopted as proposed, would affect 14 airplanes of U.S. registry. The FAA estimates the following costs to comply with this proposed AD:

Estimated costs

Action	Labor cost	Parts cost	Cost per product	Cost on U.S. operators
Inspections	63 work-hours X $85 per hour = $5,355	$0	$5,355	$74,970
Concurrent actions	Up to 220 work-hours X $85 per hour = $18,700	Negligible	Up to $18,700	Up to $261,800

The FAA has determined that revising the existing maintenance program takes an average of 90 work-hours per operator, although the agency recognizes that this number may vary from operator to operator. Since operators incorporate maintenance program changes for their affected fleet(s), the FAA has determined that a per-operator estimate is more accurate than a per-airplane estimate. Therefore, the FAA estimates the average total cost per operator to be $7,650 (90 work-hours x $85 per work-hour).

The FAA estimates the following costs to do any necessary replacements that would be required based on the results of the proposed inspection. The agency has no way of determining the number of aircraft that might need these replacements:

On-condition costs

Action	Labor cost	Parts cost	Cost per product
Replacement of EME sleeves	Up to 120 work-hours X $85 per hour = $10,200	Up to $10,830	Up to $21,030
Installation of cap seal on fasteners	Up to 901 work-hours X $85 per hour = $76,585	Up to $162,970	Up to $239,555

The FAA has received no definitive data on which to base the cost estimates for the on-condition repairs specified in this AD.

The FAA has included all known costs in its cost estimate. According to the manufacturer, however, some or all of the costs of this proposed AD may be covered under warranty, thereby reducing the cost impact on affected operators.

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.

Regulatory Findings

The FAA determined that this proposed AD would not have federalism implications under Executive Order 13132. This proposed AD 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.

For the reasons discussed above, I certify this proposed regulation:

(1) Is not a "significant regulatory action" under Executive Order 12866,

(2) Would not affect intrastate aviation in Alaska, and

(3) Would 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.

The Proposed Amendment

Accordingly, under the authority delegated to me by the Administrator, the FAA proposes to amend 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:

The Boeing Company: Docket No. FAA-2026-13802; Project Identifier AD-2026-00597-T.

(a) Comments Due Date

The FAA must receive comments on this airworthiness directive (AD) by [INSERT DATE 45 DAYS AFTER DATE OF PUBLICATION IN THE FEDERAL REGISTER].

(b) Affected ADs

None.

(c) Applicability

This AD applies to The Boeing Company Model 787-8 airplanes, certificated in any category, as identified in Boeing Alert Requirements Bulletin B787-81205-SB570039-00 RB, Issue 001, dated June 8, 2026.

(d) Subject

Air Transport Association (ATA) of America Code 57, Wings.

(e) Unsafe Condition

This AD was prompted by a report that wing skin outer mold line (OML) penetrating fasteners installed using threaded nuts without cap seals do not provide reliable protection against potential ignition sources when subjected to direct attachment lightning currents. This condition, if not addressed, could lead to a potential ignition source inside the wing fuel tanks, surge tanks, or dry bays during lightning strike event, which could result in a consequent fire or explosion.

(f) Compliance

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

(g) Required Actions

Except as specified by paragraph (h), (i), and (j) of this AD: At the applicable times specified in the “Compliance” paragraph of Boeing Alert Requirements Bulletin B787-81205-SB570039-00 RB, Issue 001, dated June 8, 2026, do all applicable actions

identified in, and in accordance with, the Accomplishment Instructions of Boeing Alert Requirements Bulletin B787-81205-SB570039-00 RB, Issue 001, dated June 8, 2026.

Note 1 to paragraph (g): Guidance for accomplishing the actions required by this AD can be found in Boeing Alert Service Bulletin B787-81205-SB570039-00, Issue 001, dated June 8, 2026, which is referred to in Boeing Alert Requirements Bulletin B787-81205-SB570039-00 RB, Issue 001, dated June 8, 2026.

(h) Exceptions to Requirements Bulletin Specifications

(1) Where the Compliance Time columns of the tables in the "Compliance" paragraph of Boeing Alert Requirements Bulletin B787-81205-SB570039-00 RB, Issue 001, dated June 8, 2026, refer to the issue 001 date of Requirements Bulletin B787-81205-SB570039-00 RB, this AD requires using the effective date of this AD.

(2) Where Boeing Alert Requirements Bulletin B787-81205-SB570039-00 RB, dated June 8, 2026, specifies contacting Boeing for repair instructions: This AD requires doing the repair before further flight using a method approved in accordance with the procedures specified in paragraph (k) of this AD.

(i) No Alternative Actions and Intervals

After the existing maintenance or inspection program has been revised as required by paragraph (g) of this AD, no alternative actions (e.g., inspections) or intervals may be used unless the actions or intervals are approved as an alternative method of compliance (AMOC) in accordance with the procedures specified in paragraph (k) of this AD.

(j) No Reporting Requirement

Where the condition for "all Table 1 Condition 1 and Condition 2 airplanes" in Table 2 of the Accomplishment Instructions of Boeing Alert Requirements Bulletin B787-81205-SB570039-00 RB, Issue 001, dated June 8, 2026, specifies to do the actions in AWL No. 57-AWL-18 "Inspection Requirements for Cap Seals on In-Tank Fasteners

between Side of Body (SOB) Rib and Rib 2", this AD does not require the reporting within that AWL for that condition.

(k) Alternative Methods of Compliance (AMOCs)

(1) The Manager, AIR-520, Continued Operational Safety 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 responsible Flight Standards Office, as appropriate. If sending information directly to the manager of the Continued Operational Safety Branch, send it to the attention of the person identified in paragraph (l)(1) of this AD. Information may be emailed to: AMOC@faa.gov. Before using any approved AMOC, notify your appropriate principal inspector, or lacking a principal inspector, the manager of the responsible Flight Standards Office.

(2) An AMOC that provides an acceptable level of safety may be used for any repair, modification, or alteration required by this AD if it is approved by The Boeing Company Organization Designation Authorization (ODA) that has been authorized by the Manager, AIR-520, Continued Operational Safety Branch, FAA, to make those findings. To be approved, the repair method, modification deviation, or alteration deviation must meet the certification basis of the airplane, and the approval must specifically refer to this AD.

(l) Additional Information

(1) For more information about this AD, contact Tak Kobayashi, Aviation Safety Engineer, FAA, 2200 South 216th St., Des Moines, WA 98198; phone: 206-231-3553; email: Takahisa.Kobayashi@faa.gov.

(2) Material identified in this AD that is not incorporated by reference is available at the address specified in paragraph (m)(3) of this AD.

(m) Material Incorporated by Reference

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

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

(i) Boeing Alert Requirements Bulletin B787-81205-SB570039-00 RB, Issue 001, dated June 8, 2026.

(ii) [Reserved]

(3) For Boeing material identified in this AD, contact Boeing Commercial Airplanes, Attention: Contractual & Data Services (C&DS), 2600 Westminster Blvd., MC 110-SK57, Seal Beach, CA 90740-5600; telephone 562-797-1717; website myboeingfleet.com.

(4) You may view this material at the FAA, Airworthiness Products Section, Operational Safety Branch, 2200 South 216th St., Des Moines, WA. For information on the availability of this material at the FAA, call 206-231-3195.

(5) You may view this material at the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA). For information on the availability of this material at NARA, visit www.archives.gov/federal-register/cfr/ibr-locations or email fr.inspection@nara.gov.

Issued on November 6, 2026.

Lona C. Saccomando,
Acting Deputy Director, Integrated Certificate Management Division,
Aircraft Certification Service.

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