

Proposed Rules

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This section of the FEDERAL REGISTER contains notices to the public of the proposed issuance of rules and regulations. The purpose of these notices is to give interested persons an opportunity to participate in the rule making prior to the adoption of the final rules.

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Aviation Administration

14 CFR Part 39

[Docket No. 2001–NM–280–AD]

RIN 2120–AA64

Airworthiness Directives; Aerospatiale Model ATR42 Series Airplanes, and Model ATR72 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 Aerospatiale Model ATR42–200, –300, –320, –500 series airplanes, and Model ATR72 series airplanes. This proposal would require replacement of a certain Automatic Takeoff Power Control System (ATPCS) test selector switch with a different test selector switch. This action is necessary to prevent shorting of a contact in the ATPCS test selector switch due to abnormal wear of contact surfaces, which could result in dual engine power drop with associated loss of both alternating current wild and main hydraulic power during ground maneuvers, and consequent reduced controllability of the airplane and increased flight crew workload. This action is intended to address the identified unsafe condition.

DATES: Comments must be received by May 1, 2003.

ADDRESSES: Submit comments in triplicate to the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), Transport Airplane Directorate, ANM–114, Attention: Rules Docket No. 2001–NM–280–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. 2001–NM–280–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 Aerospatiale, 316 Route de Bayonne, 31060 Toulouse, Cedex 03, France. 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 2001–NM–280–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. 2001–NM–280–AD, 1601 Lind Avenue, SW., Renton, Washington 98055–4056.

Discussion

The Direction Générale de l’Aviation Civile (DGAC), which is the airworthiness authority for France, notified the FAA that an unsafe condition may exist on certain Aerospatiale Model ATR42–200, –300, –320, and –500 series airplanes, and Model ATR72 series airplanes. The DGAC advises that it has received several reports of dual engine power drop during ground maneuvers, with associated loss of both alternating current wild (ACW) and main hydraulic power. Investigation revealed abnormal wear of contact surfaces within the IPP JANCO ATPCS (Automatic Takeoff Power Control System) test selector switch. The abnormal wear is suspected to have caused contact shorting. (Each time the ATPCS test selector switch was replaced, the malfunction cleared.) Due to the different governing modes applicable during these operating phases, the malfunction can only occur during taxiing or landing, not during takeoff or in flight. Shorting of the contact in the ATPCS test selector switch due to abnormal wear of contact surfaces, if not corrected, could result in dual engine power drop with associated loss of both ACW and main hydraulic power during ground maneuvers, and consequent reduced controllability of the airplane and increased flight crew workload.

Explanation of Relevant Service Information

Aerospatiale has issued Avions de Transport Regional Service Letters