

# 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. 2002–CE–53–AD]

RIN 2120–AA64

#### Airworthiness Directives; Pilatus Aircraft Ltd. Models PC–12 and PC–12/45 Airplanes

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

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

**SUMMARY:** This document proposes to adopt a new airworthiness directive (AD) that would apply to certain Pilatus Aircraft Ltd. (Pilatus) Models PC–12 and PC–12/45 airplanes. This proposed AD would require you to inspect the front and rear surfaces of the pressure dome for damage and cracks, and, if necessary, accomplish repairs. This proposed AD is the result of mandatory continuing airworthiness information (MCAI) issued by the airworthiness authority for Switzerland. The actions specified by this proposed AD are intended to detect and correct damage and cracks to the pressure dome, which could lead to rapid decompression.

**DATES:** The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) must receive any comments on this proposed rule on or before February 24, 2003.

**ADDRESSES:** Submit comments to FAA, Central Region, Office of the Regional Counsel, Attention: Rules Docket No. 2002–CE–53–AD, 901 Locust, Room 506, Kansas City, Missouri 64106. You may view any comments at this location between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays. You may also send comments electronically to the following address: 9–ACE–7–Docket@faa.gov. Comments sent electronically must contain “Docket No. 2002–CE–53–AD” in the subject line. If you send comments electronically as attached electronic files, the files must be formatted in

Microsoft Word 97 for Windows or ASCII text.

You may get service information that applies to this proposed AD from Pilatus Aircraft Ltd., Customer Liaison Manager, CH–6371 Stans, Switzerland; telephone: +41 41 619 63 19; facsimile: +41 41 619 6224; or from Pilatus Business Aircraft Ltd., Product Support Department, 11755 Airport Way, Broomfield, Colorado 80021; telephone: (303) 465–9099; facsimile: (303) 465–6040. You may also view this information at the Rules Docket at the address above.

#### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Doug Rudolph, Aerospace Engineer, FAA, Small Airplane Directorate, 901 Locust, Room 301, Kansas City, Missouri 64106; telephone: (816) 329–4059; facsimile: (816) 329–4090.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

##### Comments Invited

##### *How Do I Comment on this Proposed AD?*

The FAA invites comments on this proposed rule. You may submit whatever written data, views, or arguments you choose. You need to include the proposed rule’s docket number and submit your comments to the address specified under the caption **ADDRESSES**. We will consider all comments received on or before the closing date. We may amend this proposed rule in light of comments received. Factual information that supports your ideas and suggestions is extremely helpful in evaluating the effectiveness of this proposed AD action and determining whether we need to take additional rulemaking action.

##### *Are there any specific portions of this proposed AD I should pay attention to?*

The FAA specifically invites comments on the overall regulatory, economic, environmental, and energy aspects of this proposed rule that might suggest a need to modify the proposed rule. You may view all comments we receive before and after the closing date of the proposed rule in the Rules Docket. We will file a report in the Rules Docket that summarizes each contact we have with the public that concerns the substantive parts of this proposed AD.

##### *How Can I Be Sure FAA Receives My Comment?*

If you want FAA to acknowledge the receipt of your mailed comments, you must include a self-addressed, stamped postcard. On the postcard, write “Comments to Docket No. 2002–CE–53–AD.” We will date stamp and mail the postcard back to you.

##### Discussion

##### *What Events Have Caused This Proposed AD?*

The Federal Office for Civil Aviation (FOCA), which is the airworthiness authority for Switzerland, recently notified FAA that an unsafe condition may exist on certain Pilatus Models PC–12 and PC–12/45 airplanes. The FOCA reports that drill and/or rivet tool damage could have occurred in areas around the edges of the rear pressure dome during assembly of the Models PC–12 and PC–12/45 airplanes.

Pilatus has received 19 reports of damaged pressure domes. The reported damage included nicks and scratches. This type of damage could also occur on the forward surface of the pressure dome.

##### *What Are the Consequences if the Condition Is Not Corrected?*

The damage to the pressure dome could result in cracks in the pressure dome and lead to rapid decompression.

##### *Is There Service Information That Applies To This Subject?*

Pilatus has issued PC–12 Service Bulletin Number 53–003, Revision No. 1, dated July 26, 2002.

##### *What Are the Provisions of This Service Information?*

The service bulletin includes procedures for:

- inspecting the pressure dome for damage/cracks; and
- repairing the pressure dome.

##### *What Action Did the FOCA Take?*

The FOCA classified this service bulletin as mandatory and issued Swiss AD Number HB 2002–608, dated November 1, 2002, in order to ensure the continued airworthiness of these airplanes in Switzerland.