

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-NE-50-AD]

RIN 2120-AA64

Airworthiness Directives; Dowty Aerospace Propellers Type R321/4-82-F/8, R324/4-82-F/9, R333/4-82-F/12, and R334/4-82-F/13 Propeller Assemblies

AGENCY: Federal Aviation Administration, DOT.

ACTION: Notice of proposed rulemaking (NPRM).

SUMMARY: The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) proposes to supersede an existing airworthiness directive (AD), applicable to Dowty Aerospace Propellers Type R334/4-82-F/13 propeller assemblies. That AD currently requires a one-time ultrasonic inspection of propeller hubs part number (P/N) 660709201 for cracks. This proposal would require initial and repetitive ultrasonic inspections of propeller hubs P/N 660709201, that are installed on airplanes, and for hubs and propellers in storage, initial ultrasonic inspection of propeller hubs before placing in service. Propeller hubs P/N 660709201 are installed on Type R321/4-82-F/8, R324/4-82-F/9, R333/4-82-F/12, and R334/4-82-F/13 propeller assemblies. This proposal is prompted by the manufacturer's reevaluation of potential hub failure on Type R321/4-82-F/8, R324/4-82-F/9, R333/4-82-F/12, and R334/4-82-F/13 propeller assemblies. The actions specified by the proposed AD are intended to prevent propeller hub failure due to cracks in the hub, which could result in loss of control of the airplane.

DATES: Comments must be received by June 27, 2003.

ADDRESSES: Submit comments in triplicate to the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), New England Region, Office of the Regional Counsel,

Attention: Rules Docket No. 2001-NE-50-AD, 12 New England Executive Park, Burlington, MA 01803-5299. Comments may be inspected at this location, by appointment, between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays. Comments may also be sent via the Internet using the following address: *9-ane-adcomment@faa.gov*. Comments sent via the Internet must contain the docket number in the subject line.

The service information referenced in the proposed rule may be obtained from Dowty Propellers, Anson Business Park, Cheltenham Road East, Gloucester GL29QN, UK; telephone 44 (0) 1452 716000; fax: 44 (0) 1452 716001. This information may be examined, by appointment, at the FAA, New England Region, Office of the Regional Counsel, 12 New England Executive Park, Burlington, MA.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Frank Walsh, Aerospace Engineer, Boston Aircraft Certification Office, FAA, Engine and Propeller Directorate, telephone (781) 238-7158, fax (781) 238-7170.

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 should 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.

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-NE-50-AD." The postcard will be date stamped and returned to the commenter.

Availability of NPRM's

Any person may obtain a copy of this NPRM by submitting a request to the FAA, New England Region, Office of the Regional Counsel, Attention: Rules Docket No. 2001-NE-50-AD, 12 New England Executive Park, Burlington, MA 01803-5299.

Discussion

On January 18, 2002, the FAA issued AD 2002-01-28, Amendment 39-12623 (67 FR 4351, January 30, 2002), to require a one-time ultrasonic inspection for cracks of the rear wall of the rear half of propeller hubs P/N 660709201, installed in Type R334/4-82-F/13 propeller assemblies. The Civil Aviation Authority (CAA), which is the airworthiness authority for the United Kingdom (UK), notified the FAA that an unsafe condition may exist on Dowty Aerospace Propellers Type R334/4-82-F/13 propeller assemblies. The CAA advises that two different events occurred where the complete R334/4-82-F/13 propeller separated from the engine flange, on Construcciones Aeronauticas, S.A. (CASA) 212 airplanes.

Since AD 2001-01-28 was issued, the manufacturer has reevaluated the potential for P/N 660709201 hub failure on Type R321/4-82-F/8, R324/4-82-F/9, R333/4-82-F/12, and R334/4-82-F/13 propeller assemblies.

Manufacturer's Service Information

Dowty Aerospace Propellers has issued Mandatory Service Bulletin (MSB) No. 61-1119, Revision 3, dated March 8, 2002, MSB No. 61-1124, Revision 1, dated October 8, 2002, MSB No. 61-1125, Revision 1, dated October 9, 2002, and MSB No. 61-1126, Revision 1, dated October 9, 2002, that specify initial and repetitive ultrasonic inspections of the rear wall of the rear half of the propeller hub for cracks on Types R334/4-82-F/13, R333/4-82-F/12, R321/4-82-F/8, and R324/4-82-F/9 propeller assemblies, respectively. The CAA classified these service bulletins as mandatory and issued CAA UK AD No. 003-11-2001, dated November 30, 2001, in order to assure the airworthiness of