

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. 2003–CE–19–AD]

RIN 2120–AA64

Airworthiness Directives; Kidde Aerospace Part Number (P/N) 898052 Hand-held Halon Fire Extinguishers

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 Kidde Aerospace P/N 898052 hand-held halon fire extinguishers that are utilized on aircraft. This proposed AD would require you to remove the affected fire extinguishers from service and would prevent you from using them in the future. This proposed AD is the result of information that shows that the discharge time of the affected fire extinguishers exceeds the maximum allowable discharge time. The problem is due to incomplete crimping of the siphon tube. The actions specified by this proposed AD are intended to remove from service fire extinguishers that had this incomplete crimping of the siphon tube. If not removed from service, these fire extinguishers could function at diminished levels and compromise the level of safety in an emergency situation.

DATES: The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) must receive any comments on this proposed rule on or before July 14, 2003.

ADDRESSES: Submit comments to FAA, Central Region, Office of the Regional Counsel, Attention: Rules Docket No. 2003–CE–19–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. 2003–CE–19–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 Kidde Aerospace, Kidde Technologies, Inc., 4200 Airport Drive, NW., Wilson, North Carolina 27896; telephone: (252) 237–7004. You may also view this information at the Rules Docket at the address above.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Charles H. Bowser, Flight Test Engineer, FAA, Atlanta Aircraft Certification Office, One Crown Center, 1895 Phoenix Boulevard, Suite 450, Atlanta, Georgia 30349; telephone: (770) 703–6047; facsimile: (770) 703–6097.

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 rule. You may view all comments we receive before and after the closing date of the 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. 2003–CE–19–AD.” We will date stamp and mail the postcard back to you.

Discussion

What Events Have Caused This Proposed AD?

The FAA has received information of problems with certain Kidde Aerospace P/N 898052 hand-held halon fire extinguishers that are utilized on aircraft. This information shows that the discharge time of the affected fire extinguishers exceeds the maximum allowable discharge time.

The problem is due to incomplete crimping of the siphon tube. Specifically, worn crimping tools were used to crimp the siphon tube. This is causing leakage between the siphon tube and the valve.

The fire extinguishers in question were manufactured from 1995 through 2002 and have a serial number of W–389653 or lower.

What Are the Consequences If the Condition Is Not Corrected?

If these fire extinguishers that had this incomplete crimping of the siphon tube are not removed from service, then the fire extinguishers could function at diminished levels and compromise the level of safety in an emergency situation.

Is There Service Information That Applies To This Subject?

Kidde Aerospace has issued Service Bulletin 898052–26–449, dated October 7, 2002.

What Are the Provisions of This Service Information?

The service bulletin describes the problem discussed in this proposed AD and includes procedures for identifying and returning the affected hand-held halon fire extinguishers.

The FAA’s Determination and an Explanation of the Provisions of This Proposed AD

What Has FAA Decided?

After examining the circumstances and reviewing all available information