

Differences Between This AD and the Service Information

This AD adds an additional inspection at bolt hole location number 69, which was not originally listed in PW SB No. PW4G-112-72-256, because one report of a crack at that location has been received since the service bulletin was released. Future revisions of PW SB No. PW4G-112-72-256 will include this inspection location.

FAA's Determination and Requirements of This AD

The unsafe condition described previously is likely to exist or develop on other PW PW4074, PW4074D, PW4077, PW4077D, PW4090, and PW4090-3 turbofan engines of the same type design. Therefore, we are issuing this AD to prevent fracturing and rupturing of the HPC rear case, resulting in uncontained engine failure. This AD requires:

- Initial and repetitive visual or FPI inspections of the J flange on HPC rear cases, P/Ns 55H425-01, 55H385-01, and 56H396-01.
- Removal of the rear case from service based on certain inspection results.

You must do these actions in accordance with the service information described previously.

FAA's Determination of the Effective Date

Since an unsafe condition exists that requires the immediate adoption of this AD, we have found that notice and opportunity for prior public comment are impracticable, and that good cause exists for making this amendment effective in less than 30 days.

Changes to 14 CFR Part 39—Effect on the AD

On July 10, 2002, we issued a new version of 14 CFR part 39 (67 FR 47997, July 22, 2002), which governs our AD system. This regulation now includes material that relates to special flight permits, alternative methods of compliance, and altered products. This material previously was included in each individual AD. Since this material is included in 14 CFR part 39, we will not include it in future AD actions.

Interim Action

These actions are interim actions and we may take further rulemaking actions in the future.

Comments Invited

This AD is a final rule that involves requirements affecting flight safety and was not preceded by notice and an

opportunity for public comment; however, we invite you to submit any written relevant data, views, or arguments regarding this AD. Send your comments to an address listed under **ADDRESSES**. Include "AD Docket No. 2003-NE-24-AD" in the subject line of your comments. If you want us to acknowledge receipt of your mailed comments, send us a self-addressed, stamped postcard with the docket number written on it; we will date-stamp your postcard and mail it back to you. We specifically invite comments on the overall regulatory, economic, environmental, and energy aspects of the rule that might suggest a need to modify it. If a person contacts us through a nonwritten communication, and that contact relates to a substantive part of this AD, we will summarize the contact and place the summary in the docket. We will consider all comments received by the closing date and may amend the AD in light of those comments.

We are reviewing the writing style we currently use in regulatory documents. We are interested in your comments on whether the style of this document is clear, and your suggestions to improve the clarity of our communications with you. You may get more information about plain language at <http://www.plainlanguage.gov>.

Regulatory Findings

We have determined that this AD will not have federalism implications under Executive Order 13132. This AD will 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 that the regulation:

1. Is not a "significant regulatory action" under Executive Order 12866;
2. Is not a "significant rule" under the DOT Regulatory Policies and Procedures (44 FR 11034, February 26, 1979); and
3. Will not have a significant economic impact, positive or negative, on a substantial number of small entities under the criteria of the Regulatory Flexibility Act.

We prepared a summary of the costs to comply with this AD and placed it in the AD Docket. You may get a copy of this summary by sending a request to us at the address listed under **ADDRESSES**. Include "AD Docket No. 2003-NE-24-AD" in your request.

List of Subjects in 14 CFR Part 39

Air transportation, Aircraft, Aviation safety, Incorporation by reference, Safety.

Adoption of the Amendment

■ Accordingly, under the authority delegated to me by the Administrator, the Federal Aviation Administration amends part 39 of the Federal Aviation Regulations (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:

2003-13-11 Pratt & Whitney: Amendment 39-13211. Docket No. 2003-NE-24-AD.

Effective Date

(a) This airworthiness directive (AD) becomes effective July 15, 2003.

Affected ADs

(b) None.

Applicability

(c) This AD is applicable to Pratt & Whitney (PW) PW4074, PW4074D, PW4077, PW4077D, PW4090, and PW4090-3 turbofan engines with high pressure compressor (HPC) rear cases, part numbers (P/Ns) 55H425-01, 55H385-01, and 56H396-01 installed. These engines are installed on, but not limited to, Boeing 777 series airplanes.

Unsafe Condition

(d) This AD is prompted by 32 reports of cracks propagating from bolt holes in the HPC rear case J flange, two of which were reports of high-cycle HPC rear cases with cracks propagating into the shell wall, which required immediate removal before further flight. The actions specified in this AD are intended to prevent fracturing and rupturing of the HPC rear case, resulting in uncontained engine failure.

Compliance

(e) Compliance with this AD is required as indicated, unless already done.

Initial Inspection

(f) Perform an initial visual or fluorescent penetrant inspection (FPI) of the HPC rear case J flange for cracks at bolt hole location numbers 22, 67, 68, and 69, in accordance with Accomplishment Instructions of PW Service Bulletin (SB) No. PW4G-112-72-256, dated April 2, 2003, using the compliance times specified in the following Table 1: