

assembly to detect damage, failure, or irregularity. Available lighting is normally supplemented with a direct source of good lighting at intensity deemed appropriate by the inspector. Inspection aids such as mirror, magnifying lenses, etc., may be used. Surface cleaning and elaborate access procedures may be required."

Modification

(b) Within 36 months after the effective date of this AD: Modify the escape slides/slide rafts on the passenger, crew, and emergency exit doors. The modification includes replacing—with new or modified parts—the alignment bushing in the release rails, the existing rail release pin lanyards from the girt or girt attachment, and the rail adapters from the packboard. Do the modification in accordance with Airbus Service Bulletin A330–25–3126 (for Model A330 series airplanes) or A340–25–4152 (for Model A340 series airplanes), both dated August 7, 2001. If the modification is done within the compliance time for the inspection specified in paragraph (a) of this AD, the inspection is not required.

Note 3: Airbus Service Bulletins A330–25–3126 and A340–25–4152 refer to BF Goodrich Service Bulletin 25–306, dated July 30, 2001, as an additional source of service information for the modification.

Alternative Methods of Compliance

(c) An alternative method of compliance or adjustment of the compliance time that provides an acceptable level of safety may be used if approved by the Manager, International Branch, ANM–116, FAA, Transport Airplane Directorate. Operators shall submit their requests through an appropriate FAA Principal Maintenance Inspector, who may add comments and then send it to the Manager, International Branch, ANM–116.

Note 4: Information concerning the existence of approved alternative methods of compliance with this AD, if any, may be obtained from the International Branch, ANM–116.

Special Flight Permits

(d) Special flight permits may be issued in accordance with sections 21.197 and 21.199 of the Federal Aviation Regulations (14 CFR 21.197 and 21.199) to operate the airplane to a location where the requirements of this AD can be accomplished.

Incorporation by Reference

(e) Unless otherwise specified in this AD, the actions shall be done in accordance with Airbus Service Bulletin A330–25–3126, dated August 7, 2001; Airbus Service Bulletin A340–25–4152, dated August 7, 2001; Airbus Industrie Service Bulletin A330–25–3086, including Appendix 01, Revision 01, dated June 11, 1999; and Airbus Industrie Service Bulletin A340–25–4115, including Appendix 01, Revision 01, dated June 11, 1999; as applicable.

(1) This incorporation by reference of Airbus Service Bulletin A330–25–3126, dated August 7, 2001; and Airbus Service Bulletin A340–25–4152, dated August 7,

2001; is approved by the Director of the Federal Register in accordance with 5 U.S.C. 552(a) and 1 CFR part 51.

(2) The incorporation by reference of Airbus Industrie Service Bulletin A330–25–3086, including Appendix 01, Revision 01, dated June 11, 1999; and Airbus Industrie Service Bulletin A340–25–4115, including Appendix 01, Revision 01, dated June 11, 1999; was approved previously by the Director of the Federal Register as of November 26, 1999 (64 FR 56963, October 22, 1999).

(3) Copies may be obtained from Airbus Industrie, 1 Rond Point Maurice Bellonte, 31707 Blagnac Cedex, France. Copies may be inspected at the FAA, Transport Airplane Directorate, 1601 Lind Avenue, SW., Renton, Washington; or at the Office of the Federal Register, 800 North Capitol Street, NW., suite 700, Washington, DC.

Note 5: The subject of this AD is addressed in French airworthiness directives 2001–465(B) R1 and 2001–464(B) R1, both dated October 17, 2001.

Effective Date

(f) This amendment becomes effective on March 5, 2003.

Issued in Renton, Washington, on January 22, 2003.

Vi L. Lipski,

*Manager, Transport Airplane Directorate,
Aircraft Certification Service.*

[FR Doc. 03–1829 Filed 1–28–03; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Office of the Secretary

15 CFR Part 6

[Docket No.: 030108003–3003–01]

RIN 0680–AA33

Civil Monetary Penalties; Adjustments

AGENCY: Office of the Secretary, Commerce.

ACTION: Final rule.

SUMMARY: This final rule is being issued to adjust civil monetary penalties provided by law within the jurisdiction of the Department of Commerce (the Department). As required by the Federal Civil Penalties Inflation Adjustment Act of 1990, as amended by the Debt Collection Improvement Act of 1996, the Secretary of Commerce adjusted the Department's civil monetary penalties for inflation on October 24, 1996, and subsequently on November 1, 2000. On September 30, 2002, the United States General Accounting Office (GAO) sent the Secretary of Commerce a letter indicating that the Department's November 1, 2000, adjustment was inconsistent with the requirements of

the statute, and recommending corrective action. The purpose of this rule is to bring the Department into compliance with GAO's interpretation of the statute.

DATES: This rule is effective January 29, 2003.

ADDRESSES: Office of Financial Management, Department of Commerce, 14th and Constitution Avenue, MS 6827, Washington, DC 20230.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Lisa Casias, 202–482–0766.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Federal Civil Penalties Inflation Adjustment Act of 1990 (Pub. L. 101–410), provided for the regular evaluation of civil monetary penalties to ensure that they continued to maintain their deterrent value and that penalty amounts due to the Federal Government were properly accounted for and collected. On April 26, 1996, the Federal Civil Penalties Inflation Adjustment Act of 1990 was amended by the Debt Collection Improvement Act of 1996 (Pub. L. 104–134) to require each agency to issue regulations to adjust its civil monetary penalties (CMP) for inflation at least every four years. The amendment further provides that any resulting increases in a CMP due to the inflation adjustment should apply only to the violations that occur subsequent to the date of the publication in the **Federal Register** of the increased amount of the CMP. The first inflation adjustment of any penalty shall not exceed ten percent of such penalty.

The amount of CMP adjustments is based on changes to the Consumer Price Index from June of the calendar year in which penalties were last set or adjusted through June of the year prior to the adjustment. The stated purpose for such adjustments is to keep civil penalties in pace with inflation.

A civil monetary penalty is defined as any penalty, fine, or other sanction that:

1. Is for a specific monetary amount as provided by Federal law; and
2. Is assessed or enforced pursuant to Federal law; and
3. Is assessed or enforced pursuant to an administrative proceeding or a civil action in the Federal courts.

On October 24, 1996, the Department published in the **Federal Register** a schedule of CMPs adjusted for inflation as required by law. In one instance, the initial CMP inflation adjustment was zero, and was published accordingly. In two cases, the adjustment was nine percent. All other CMPs adjusted at that time were increased by the ten percent maximum amount. In the October 24,