

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-NE-02-AD]

RIN 2120-AA64

Airworthiness Directives; Honeywell International Inc. (formerly AlliedSignal Inc., Garrett Turbine Engine Company, and AiResearch Manufacturing Company of Arizona) TPE331-10 and -11 Series Turboprop Engines

AGENCY: Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), DOT.

ACTION: Notice of proposed rulemaking (NPRM).

SUMMARY: The FAA is proposing to adopt a new airworthiness directive (AD) that applies to Honeywell International Inc. (formerly AlliedSignal Inc., Garrett Turbine Engine Company, and AiResearch Manufacturing Company of Arizona) TPE331-10 and -11 series turboprop engines with certain part numbers and serial numbers of first stage turbine disks. This proposal would require initial and repetitive fluorescent penetrant inspections (FPIs) and eddy current inspections (ECIs) of the affected first stage turbine disks. This proposal is prompted by a report of a first stage turbine disk found cracked at the disk bore. We are proposing this AD to prevent cracked first stage turbine disks from causing uncontained disk separation, resulting in engine damage and shutdown.

DATES: We must receive any comments on this proposed AD by October 7, 2003.

ADDRESSES: Use one of the following addresses to submit comments on this proposed AD:

- *By mail:* Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), New England Region, Office of the Regional Counsel, Attention: Rules Docket No. 2003-NE-02-AD, 12 New England Executive Park, Burlington, MA 01803-5299.
- *By fax:* (781) 238-7055.

- *By e-mail:* 9-ane-adcomment@faa.gov.

You may get the service information identified in this proposed AD from Honeywell Engines, Systems & Services, Technical Data Distribution, M/S 2101-201, P.O. Box 52170, Phoenix, AZ 85072-2170; telephone: (602) 365-2493 (General Aviation); (602) 365-5535 (Commercial); fax: (602) 365-5577 (General Aviation and Commercial).

You may examine the AD docket at the FAA, New England Region, Office of the Regional Counsel, 12 New England Executive Park, Burlington, MA.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Joseph Costa, Aerospace Engineer, Los Angeles Aircraft Certification Office, FAA, Transport Airplane Directorate, 3960 Paramount Blvd., Lakewood CA 90712-4137; telephone: (562) 627-5246; fax (562) 627-5210.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Comments Invited

We invite you to submit any written relevant data, views, or arguments regarding this proposal. Send your comments to an address listed under **ADDRESSES**. Include "AD Docket No. 2003-NE-02-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 proposed AD. If a person contacts us through a nonwritten communication, and that contact relates to a substantive part of this proposed 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 proposed 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 that affect you. You may get more information about plain language at <http://www.plainlanguage.gov>.

Examining the AD Docket

You may examine the AD Docket (including any comments and service information), by appointment, between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays. See **ADDRESSES** for the location.

Discussion

On October 23, 2001, the FAA received a report of a first stage turbine disk, part number (P/N) 3101520-1, found cracked in the bore area. The manufacturer's investigation verified that the crack originated from a localized, melt related, low alloy area of the disk. The manufacturer has determined that certain serial numbers (SNs) of P/N 3101520-1 first stage turbine disks, produced from the same forging billet, may also contain localized, melt related, low alloy areas. Some of the P/N 3101520-1 disks produced from this same forging billet were later converted to P/N 3107079-1 first stage turbine disks. Therefore, certain SNs of P/N 3107079-1 first stage turbine disks also may contain localized, melt related, low alloy areas. At the time of conversion, however, P/N 3107079-1 first stage turbine disks received an initial FPI and ECI, so these disks only require repetitive inspections. This condition, if not corrected, could result in uncontained disk separation, resulting in engine damage and shutdown.

Relevant Service Information

We have reviewed and approved the technical contents of Honeywell International Inc. Alert Service Bulletin (ASB) TPE331-A72-2102, dated March 28, 2002, that describes procedures for initial and repetitive FPI of the SNs of first stage turbine disks, P/N 3101520-1, and for only repetitive FPI of the SNs of disks, P/N 3107079-1 listed in Table 1 of the ASB. For disks that pass FPI, the ASB also requires that those disks pass ECI.

FAA's Determination and Requirements of the Proposed AD

We have evaluated all pertinent information and identified an unsafe condition that is likely to exist or develop on other products of this same type design. Therefore, we are proposing this AD, which would require initial and repetitive FPIs of the SNs of first stage turbine disks P/N 3101520-1,