

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**Federal Aviation Administration****14 CFR Part 39**

[Docket No. 2002-NE-45-AD; Amendment 39-13046; AD 2003-03-21]

RIN 2120-AA64

Airworthiness Directives; Pratt & Whitney Canada PW500 Series Turbofan Engines

AGENCY: Federal Aviation Administration, DOT.

ACTION: Final rule; request for comments.

SUMMARY: This amendment adopts a new airworthiness directive (AD) that is applicable to Pratt & Whitney Canada (PWC) PW500 series turbofan engines. This action requires a one-time visual inspection and re-marking, or in lieu of inspection, replacement of certain part numbers (P/N's) of the flexible fuel tube located between the fuel/oil heat exchanger and the integral fuel control unit-fuel pump. This amendment is prompted by reports of fuel found dripping from engine nacelles caused by leaking flexible fuel tubes. The actions specified in this AD are intended to prevent a fire in the engine nacelle.

DATES: Effective February 20, 2003. The incorporation by reference of certain publications listed in the rule is approved by the Director of the Federal Register as of February 20, 2003.

Comments for inclusion in the Rules Docket must be received on or before April 7, 2003.

ADDRESSES: Submit comments in triplicate to the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), New England Region, Office of the Regional Counsel, Attention: Rules Docket No. 2002-NE-45-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 this AD may be obtained from Pratt & Whitney Canada, 1000 Marie-Victorin, Longueuil, Quebec, Canada J4G1A1. 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; or at the Office of the

Federal Register, 800 North Capitol Street, NW., suite 700, Washington, DC.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Antonio Cancelliere, Aerospace Engineer, Engine Certification Office, FAA, Engine and Propeller Directorate, 12 New England Executive Park, Burlington, MA 01803-5299; telephone (781) 238-7751; fax (781) 238-7199.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Transport Canada, which is the airworthiness authority for Canada, recently notified the FAA that an unsafe condition may exist on PWC PW530A, PW535A, and PW545A turbofan engines. Transport Canada has advised the FAA that there have been five reports of fuel dripping from the engine nacelle. It was found that the dripping fuel was the result of leaking flexible fuel tubes. Transport Canada advises that certain P/N's of the flexible fuel tube, located between the fuel/oil heat exchanger and the integral fuel control unit-fuel pump, may leak due to possible manufacturing defects in the tube.

Manufacturer's Service Information

PWC has issued Service Bulletin (SB) PW500-72-30217, Revision 1, dated July 29, 2002, that specifies procedures for performing a one-time visual inspection of flexible fuel tubes P/N's 30J2285-01 (PW530A engines), 3054416-01 (PW535A engines), and 30J2323-01 (PW545A engines). The tubes must be inspected externally for leaks, local swelling, sponginess of the red silicone rubber, gashes, gouges, and tears, and internally for kinks, gouging, or loose material in the tube bore. Tubes that pass inspection are then re-marked with a new P/N. In lieu of the tube inspection, the SB also allows for replacement of the flexible fuel tube with a different P/N tube. Transport Canada issued AD CF-2002-42, dated September 30, 2002, in order to assure the airworthiness of these PWC PW500 series turbofan engines in Canada.

Bilateral Airworthiness Agreement

This engine model is manufactured in Canada and is type certificated for operation in the United States under the provisions of section 21.29 of the Federal Aviation Regulations (14 CFR 21.29) and the applicable bilateral airworthiness agreement. Pursuant to this bilateral airworthiness agreement, Transport Canada has kept the FAA informed of the situation described above. The FAA has examined the findings of Transport Canada, reviewed all available information, and determined that AD action is necessary for products of this type design that are

certificated for operation in the United States.

FAA's Determination of an Unsafe Condition and Required Actions

Since an unsafe condition has been identified that is likely to exist or develop on other Pratt & Whitney Canada PW530A, PW535A, and PW545A turbofan engines of the same type design, this AD is being issued to prevent a fire in the engine nacelle. This AD requires the following within 50 flight hours, but no later than 60 days after the effective date of this AD, whichever occurs first:

- Replacement of flexible fuel tubes P/N's 30J2285-01 (PW530A engines), 3054416-01 (PW535A engines), and 30J2323-01 (PW545A engines) with flexible fuel tubes P/N's 30J2578-01, 3058704-01, and 30J2579-01 respectively; or
- A one-time visual external and internal inspection of flexible fuel tubes P/N's 30J2285-01, 3054416-01, and 30J2323-01; and
- Part number re-marking of flexible fuel tubes that pass inspection. The actions must be done in accordance with the service bulletin described previously.

Immediate Adoption of This AD

Since a situation exists that requires the immediate adoption of this regulation, it is found that notice and opportunity for prior public comment hereon are impracticable, and that good cause exists for making this amendment effective in less than 30 days.

Comments Invited

Although this action is in the form of a final rule that involves requirements affecting flight safety and, thus, was not preceded by notice and an opportunity for public comment, comments are invited on this rule. Interested persons are invited to comment on this 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 under the caption **ADDRESSES**. All communications received on or before the closing date for comments will be considered, and this rule may be amended in light of the comments received. Factual information that supports the commenter's ideas and suggestions is extremely helpful in evaluating the effectiveness of the AD action and determining whether additional rulemaking action would be needed.

Comments are specifically invited on the overall regulatory, economic,