

Bulletin F900–291, dated February 20, 2002; Model Falcon 900EX series airplanes, as listed in Dassault Service Bulletin F900EX–155, dated February 20, 2002; and Model Falcon 2000 series airplanes, as listed in Dassault Service Bulletin F2000–234, dated February 20, 2002; certificated in any category.

*Compliance:* Required as indicated, unless accomplished previously.

To prevent structural damage to the horizontal stabilizer after a direct lightning strike, which could result in reduced controllability of the airplane, accomplish the following:

*Measurement of Paint Thickness and Corrective Actions*

(a) Within 7 months after the effective date of this AD: Measure the thickness of the paint on the upper and lower surfaces of the left and right sides of the horizontal stabilizer in accordance with all of the actions specified in paragraphs 2.A. through 2.D. of the Accomplishment Instructions of Dassault Service Bulletin F900–291, dated February 20, 2002; Dassault Service Bulletin F900EX–155, dated February 20, 2002; or Dassault Service Bulletin F2000–234, dated February 20, 2002; as applicable. Any necessary corrective action must be done before further flight in accordance with the applicable service bulletin.

*Installation of Placards*

(b) After accomplishing the actions required by paragraph (a) of this AD, before further flight, install placards on the upper surface of the left and right sides of the horizontal stabilizer in accordance with paragraph 2.E. of the Accomplishment Instructions of Dassault Service Bulletin F900–291, dated February 20, 2002; Dassault Service Bulletin F900EX–155, dated February 20, 2002; or Dassault Service Bulletin F2000–234, dated February 20, 2002; as applicable.

*Alternative Methods of Compliance*

(c) In accordance with 14 CFR 39.19, the Manager, International Branch, ANM–116, Transport Airplane Directorate, FAA, is authorized to approve alternative methods of compliance for this AD.

**Note 1:** The subject of this AD is addressed in French airworthiness directive 2002–089(B), dated March 2, 2002.

Issued in Renton, Washington, on November 6, 2003.

**Kalene C. Yanamura,**

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

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## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

### Federal Aviation Administration

#### 14 CFR Part 39

[Docket No. 2002–NM–144–AD]

RIN 2120–AA64

#### Airworthiness Directives; BAE Systems (Operations) Limited Model BAe 146 and Avro 146–RJ Series Airplanes

**AGENCY:** Federal Aviation Administration, DOT.

**ACTION:** Notice of proposed rulemaking (NPRM).

**SUMMARY:** This document proposes the adoption of a new airworthiness directive (AD) that is applicable to certain BAE Systems (Operations) Limited Model BAe 146 and Avro 146–RJ series airplanes. This proposal would require one-time inspections of the inner webs and flanges at frames 15, 18, 41, and 43 for evidence of corrosion or cracking, and corrective actions if necessary. This action is necessary to detect and correct corrosion and cracking of the inner webs and flanges at frames 15, 18, 41, and 43, which could result in reduced structural integrity of the airplane. This action is intended to address the identified unsafe condition.

**DATES:** Comments must be received by December 15, 2003.

**ADDRESSES:** Submit comments in triplicate to the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), Transport Airplane Directorate, ANM–114, Attention: Rules Docket No. 2002–NM–144–AD, 1601 Lind Avenue, SW., Renton, Washington 98055–4056. Comments may be inspected at this location between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays. Comments may be submitted via fax to (425) 227–1232. Comments may also be sent via the Internet using the following address: [9-anm-nprmcomment@faa.gov](mailto:9-anm-nprmcomment@faa.gov). Comments sent via fax or the Internet must contain “Docket No. 2002–NM–144–AD” in the subject line and need not be submitted in triplicate. Comments sent via the Internet as attached electronic files must be formatted in Microsoft Word 97 or 2000 or ASCII text.

The service information referenced in the proposed rule may be obtained from British Aerospace Regional Aircraft American Support, 13850 Mclearen Road, Herndon, Virginia 20171. This information may be examined at the FAA, Transport Airplane Directorate,

1601 Lind Avenue, SW., Renton, Washington.

#### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Todd Thompson, Aerospace Engineer, International Branch, ANM–116, FAA, Transport Airplane Directorate, 1601 Lind Avenue, SW., Renton, Washington 98055–4056; telephone (425) 227–1175; fax (425) 227–1149.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

##### Comments Invited

Interested persons are invited to participate in the making of the proposed rule by submitting such written data, views, or arguments as they may desire. Communications shall identify the Rules Docket number and be submitted in triplicate to the address specified above. All communications received on or before the closing date for comments, specified above, will be considered before taking action on the proposed rule. The proposals contained in this action may be changed in light of the comments received.

Submit comments using the following format:

- Organize comments issue-by-issue. For example, discuss a request to change the compliance time and a request to change the service bulletin reference as two separate issues.
- For each issue, state what specific change to the proposed AD is being requested.
- Include justification (*e.g.*, reasons or data) for each request.

Comments are specifically invited on the overall regulatory, economic, environmental, and energy aspects of the proposed rule. All comments submitted will be available, both before and after the closing date for comments, in the Rules Docket for examination by interested persons. A report summarizing each FAA-public contact concerned with the substance of this proposal will be filed in the Rules Docket.

Commenters wishing the FAA to acknowledge receipt of their comments submitted in response to this action must submit a self-addressed, stamped postcard on which the following statement is made: “Comments to Docket Number 2002–NM–144 AD.” The postcard will be date stamped and returned to the commenter.

##### Availability of NPRMs

Any person may obtain a copy of this NPRM by submitting a request to the FAA, Transport Airplane Directorate, ANM–114, Attention: Rules Docket No. 2002–NM–144–AD, 1601 Lind Avenue, SW., Renton, Washington 98055–4056.