

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-51-AD]

RIN 2120-AA64

Airworthiness Directives; Rolls-Royce Deutschland Ltd. & Co KG, Models Spey 555-15, 555-15H, 555-15N, and 555-15P Turbojet Engines

AGENCY: Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), DOT.

ACTION: Notice of proposed rulemaking (NPRM).

SUMMARY: The FAA proposes to adopt a new airworthiness directive (AD) for Rolls-Royce Deutschland Ltd. & Co KG (RRD), models Spey 555-15, 555-15H, 555-15N, and 555-15P turbojet engines, with magnesium split low pressure (LP) compressor case, part number (P/N) EU.73418A installed. This proposed AD would require replacement of the magnesium split LP compressor case with a serviceable compressor case that is a combination of a steel front LP compressor case and a shortened split compressor case. This proposed AD results from several reports of bird ingestion and LP stage 1 rotor blade failures that have resulted in penetration of the magnesium LP compressor case, and damage to the airplane. We are proposing this AD to prevent possible uncontained LP stage 1 rotor blade failures that could result in damage to the airplane.

DATES: We must receive any comments on this proposed AD by February 13, 2004.

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-51-AD, 12 New England Executive Park, Burlington, MA 01803-5299.

- By fax: (781) 238-7055.

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

You can get the service information identified in this proposed AD from Rolls-Royce Deutschland Ltd & Co KG, Eschenweg 11, D-15827 Dahlewitz, Germany, telephone +49 (0) 33-7086-1768; fax +49 (0) 33-7086-3356.

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

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

James Lawrence, Aerospace Engineer, Engine Certification Office, FAA, Engine and Propeller Directorate, 12 New England Executive Park, Burlington, MA 01803-5299; telephone (781) 238-7176; fax (781) 238-7199.

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-51-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 verbally, 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.faa.gov/language> and <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

The Luftfahrt-Bundesamt (LBA), which is the airworthiness authority for Germany, recently notified the FAA that an unsafe condition may exist on RRD models Spey 555-15, 555-15H, 555-15N, and 555-15P turbojet engines. The LBA advises that several reports of bird ingestion and LP stage 1 rotor blade failures have resulted in penetration of the current design magnesium split LP compressor case, and damage to the airplane.

Relevant Service Information

Rolls-Royce Deutschland Service Bulletin (SB) No. Sp72-893, Revision 3, dated August 25, 2003, describes procedures for replacing the magnesium split LP compressor case, P/N EU.73418A, by reworking the front bearing housing and reworking certain affected brackets necessary, and installing Modification Kit Spey 5515. The kit contains a new design steel front case and shortened split compressor case.

FAA's Determination and Requirements of the Proposed AD

These RRD models Spey 555-15, 555-15H, 555-15N, and 555-15P turbojet engines, manufactured in Germany, are 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, the LBA has kept us informed of the situation described above. We have examined the LBA's findings, 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. Therefore, we are proposing this AD, which would require replacing the current design magnesium split LP compressor case with a serviceable compressor case that is a combination of a steel front case and a shortened split case, within 60 months after the effective date of the AD. The AD compliance time is based on comprehensive Rolls-Royce