

recodification to combine and streamline the Civil Air Regulations, it originally required applicants for a type certificate to show that the product met existing airworthiness standards (29 FR 14562, October 24, 1964). Existing airworthiness standards for aircraft and other products, issued as a separate part of the FAA's regulations, are: Normal category airplanes under part 23, transport category airplanes under part 25, normal category rotorcraft under part 27, transport category rotorcraft under part 29, manned free balloons under part 31, aircraft engines under part 33, and propellers under part 35.

The FAA amended part 21 to add procedural requirements for the issuance of type certificates for special classes of aircraft at amendment 21–60. In the final rule, the FAA explained that it intended the special class category to include, in part, those aircraft that would be eligible for a standard airworthiness certificate but for which certification standards do not exist due to their unique, novel, or unusual design features. The FAA further stated that the “decision to type certificate an aircraft in either the special class aircraft category or under . . . the FAR is entirely dependent upon the aircraft's unique, novel, and/or unusual design features.” (52 FR 8040, March 13, 1987). Amendment 21–60 revised § 21.17(b) to include the certification procedure for special classes of aircraft. For special classes of aircraft, for which airworthiness standards have not been issued, the applicable airworthiness requirements will be the portions of those existing standards contained in parts 23, 25, 27, 29, 31, 33, and 35 found by the FAA to be appropriate for the aircraft and applicable to a specific type design, or such airworthiness criteria as the FAA may find provide an equivalent level of safety to those parts.

An “unmanned aircraft” is an aircraft operated without the possibility of direct human intervention from within or on the aircraft. See 49 U.S.C. 44801(11); 14 CFR 1.1. Unmanned aircraft include all classes of airplanes, rotorcraft, and powered-lift without an onboard pilot. Many UAS elements, while essential for safe operation, are part of the UAS system but are not permanent features of the unmanned aircraft (UA). For example, instead of traditional landing gear with wheels and brakes, many UAS have a launch and recovery system. Additionally, because the pilot is not situated within the aircraft, unique configurations and applications of airframes, powerplants, fuels, and materials are possible and can result in flight characteristics different from those of conventional aircraft.

These features specific to UAS are the very unique, novel, and/or unusual features the special class category was designed to accommodate.

Policy

Accordingly, the FAA proposes that some UAS may be type certificated as a “special class” of aircraft under § 21.17(b). The FAA proposes to issue type certificates for UAS with no occupants onboard under the process in § 21.17(b). However, the FAA may still issue type certificates under § 21.17(a) for airplane and rotorcraft UAS designs when appropriate. This proposed policy applies only to the procedures for the type certification of UAS, and is not intended to establish policy impacting other FAA rules on unmanned aircraft, such as operations, pilot certification, or maintenance.

The FAA will announce and seek public comment on the particularized airworthiness criteria for each applicant as certification standards for this new special class evolve. Once generally-applicable standards are identified, the FAA intends to issue rulemaking or publish the standards as guidance in an Advisory Circular, as it has done for other special classes such as gliders, airships, and very light airplanes.

The FAA's rulemaking on small UAS was only the first step in the FAA's plan to integrate UAS into the NAS. Many long-term activities are required for full integration of present and future UAS operations, including the delivery of packages and transportation of people. The UAS affected by this policy will include those used for package delivery. Future FAA activity, through either further policy or rulemaking, will address type certification for UAS carrying occupants.

The contents of this document do not have the force and effect of law and are not meant to bind the public in any way. This document is intended only to provide clarity to the public regarding existing requirements under the law or agency policies.

Issued in Kansas City, Missouri, on January 27, 2020.

Pat Mullen,

Manager, Small Airplane Standards Branch, AIR-690, Policy and Innovation Division, Aircraft Certification Service.

[FR Doc. 2020–01877 Filed 1–31–20; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Aviation Administration

14 CFR Part 39

[Docket No. FAA–2020–0088; Product Identifier 2019–NM–195–AD]

RIN 2120–AA64

Airworthiness Directives; 328 Support Services GmbH (Type Certificate Previously Held by AvCraft Aerospace GmbH; Fairchild Dornier GmbH; Dornier Luftfahrt GmbH) Airplanes

AGENCY: Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), DOT.

ACTION: Notice of proposed rulemaking (NPRM).

SUMMARY: The FAA proposes to supersede Airworthiness Directive (AD) 2004–06–01, which applies to certain Dornier Model 328–100 series airplanes; and AD 2009–06–09, which applies to all Dornier Model 328–100 series airplanes. AD 2004–06–01 requires replacement of the existing main landing gear (MLG) leg assembly with a modified assembly. AD 2009–06–09 requires modifying the MLG main body and trailing arm bushings, and revising the existing maintenance or inspection program, as applicable, to incorporate new or more restrictive airworthiness limitations. Since the FAA issued AD 2004–06–01 and 2009–06–09, the FAA has determined that new or more restrictive airworthiness limitations are necessary. This proposed AD would require revising the existing maintenance or inspection program, as applicable, to incorporate new or more restrictive airworthiness limitations, as specified in a European Union Aviation Safety Agency (EASA) AD, which will be incorporated by reference. The FAA is proposing this AD to address the unsafe condition on these products.

DATES: The FAA must receive comments on this proposed AD by March 19, 2020.

ADDRESSES: You may send comments, using the procedures found in 14 CFR 11.43 and 11.45, by any of the following methods:

- *Federal eRulemaking Portal:* Go to <https://www.regulations.gov>. Follow the instructions for submitting comments.

- *Fax:* 202–493–2251.

- *Mail:* U.S. Department of Transportation, Docket Operations, M–30, West Building Ground Floor, Room W12–140, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE, Washington, DC 20590.

- *Hand Delivery:* U.S. Department of Transportation, Docket Operations, M–30, West Building Ground Floor, Room W12–140, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE,

Washington, DC 20590, between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays.

For the material identified in this proposed AD that will be incorporated by reference (IBR), contact the EASA, Konrad-Adenauer-Ufer 3, 50668 Cologne, Germany; telephone +49 221 89990 1000; email ADs@easa.europa.eu; internet www.easa.europa.eu. You may find this IBR material on the EASA website at <https://ad.easa.europa.eu>. You may view this IBR material at the FAA, Transport Standards Branch, 2200 South 216th St., Des Moines, WA. For information on the availability of this material at the FAA, call 206-231-3195. It is also available in the AD docket on the internet at <https://www.regulations.gov> by searching for and locating Docket No. FAA-2020-0088.

Examining the AD Docket

You may examine the AD docket on the internet at <https://www.regulations.gov> by searching for and locating Docket No. FAA-2020-0088; or in person at Docket Operations between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays. The AD docket contains this NPRM, the regulatory evaluation, any comments received, and other information. The street address for Docket Operations is listed above. Comments will be available in the AD docket shortly after receipt.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Todd Thompson, Aerospace Engineer, International Section, Transport Standards Branch, FAA, 2200 South 216th St., Des Moines, WA 98198; telephone and fax 206-231-3228; email Todd.Thompson@faa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Comments Invited

The FAA invites you to send any written relevant data, views, or arguments about this proposal. Send your comments to an address listed under the **ADDRESSES** section. Include "Docket No. FAA-2020-0088; Product Identifier 2019-NM-195-AD" at the beginning of your comments. The FAA specifically invites comments on the overall regulatory, economic, environmental, and energy aspects of this NPRM. The FAA will consider all comments received by the closing date and may amend this NPRM based on those comments.

The FAA will post all comments, without change, to <https://www.regulations.gov>, including any personal information you provide. The FAA will also post a report

summarizing each substantive verbal contact the agency receives about this NPRM.

Discussion

The FAA issued AD 2004-06-01, Amendment 39-13527 (69 FR 13715, March 24, 2004) ("AD 2004-06-01"), for certain Dornier Model 328-100 series airplanes. AD 2004-06-01 requires replacement of the existing MLG leg assembly with a modified assembly. The FAA also issued AD 2009-06-09, Amendment 39-15845 (74 FR 12249, March 24, 2009) ("AD 2009-06-09"), for all Dornier Model 328-100 series airplanes. AD 2009-06-09 requires modifying the MLG main body and trailing arm bushings, and revising the existing maintenance or inspection program, as applicable, to incorporate new or more restrictive airworthiness limitations. The FAA issued AD 2004-06-01 to address fatigue damage of the MLG leg, which could result in collapse of the MLG. The FAA also issued AD 2009-06-09 to address corrosion on the main body of the MLG and the trailing arm bushings, which could result in damage to the MLG, and possibly result in MLG functional problems or failure.

Actions Since AD 2004-06-01 and AD 2009-06-09 Were Issued

Since the FAA issued AD 2004-06-01 and AD 2009-06-09, the FAA has determined that new or more restrictive airworthiness limitations are necessary.

The EASA, which is the Technical Agent for the Member States of the European Union, has issued EASA AD 2019-0270, dated October 30, 2019 ("EASA AD 2019-0270") (also referred to as the Mandatory Continuing Airworthiness Information, or "the MCAI"), to correct an unsafe condition for all 328 Support Services GmbH Model 328-100 airplanes. EASA AD 2019-0270 supersedes German AD 2002-001, dated January 10, 2002 (which corresponds to FAA AD 2004-06-01) and EASA AD 2008-0009, dated January 11, 2008 (which corresponds to FAA AD 2009-06-09).

EASA AD 2019-0270 also specifies that it takes over the applicable requirements of EASA AD 2006-0197 (which corresponds to FAA AD 2008-17-01 R1, Amendment 39-16106 (74 FR 63569, December 4, 2009) ("AD 2008-17-01 R1")) and EASA AD 2010-0054 (which corresponds to FAA AD 2012-01-08, Amendment 39-16920 (77 FR 3583, January 25, 2012) ("AD 2012-01-08")). Accomplishing the revision specified in this proposed AD would terminate the requirements of AD 2008-17-01 R1 and AD 2012-01-08 for Model 328-100 series airplanes.

This proposed AD was prompted by a determination that new or more restrictive airworthiness limitations are necessary. The FAA is proposing this AD to address the potential failure of parts, which could lead to reduced control of the airplane; and to address the potential of ignition sources inside fuel tanks, which, in combination with flammable fuel vapors, could result in fuel tank explosions and consequent loss of the airplane.

See the MCAI for additional background information.

Related IBR Material Under 1 CFR Part 51

EASA AD 2019-0270 describes airworthiness limitations for certification maintenance requirements that include, among other items, safe life limits and fuel tank system limitations. This material is reasonably available because the interested parties have access to it through their normal course of business or by the means identified in the **ADDRESSES** section.

FAA's Determination and Requirements of This Proposed AD

This product has been approved by the aviation authority of another country, and is approved for operation in the United States. Pursuant to the FAA's bilateral agreement with the State of Design Authority, the FAA has been notified of the unsafe condition described in the MCAI referenced above. The FAA is proposing this AD because the FAA evaluated all pertinent information and determined an unsafe condition exists and is likely to exist or develop on other products of the same type design.

Proposed AD Requirements

This proposed AD would require revising the existing maintenance or inspection program, as applicable, to incorporate new or more restrictive airworthiness limitations for certification maintenance requirements that include, among other items, safe life limits and fuel tank system limitations, which are specified in EASA AD 2019-0270 described previously, as incorporated by reference. Any differences with EASA AD 2019-0270 are identified as exceptions in the regulatory text of this AD.

This proposed AD would require revisions to certain operator maintenance documents to include new actions (e.g., inspections). Compliance with these actions is required by 14 CFR 91.403(c). For airplanes that have been previously modified, altered, or repaired in the areas addressed by this proposed

AD, the operator may not be able to accomplish the actions described in the revisions. In this situation, to comply with 14 CFR 91.403(c), the operator must request approval for an alternative method of compliance according to paragraph (k)(1) of this proposed AD.

Explanation of Required Compliance Information

In the FAA's ongoing efforts to improve the efficiency of the AD process, the FAA initially worked with Airbus and EASA to develop a process to use certain EASA ADs as the primary source of information for compliance with requirements for corresponding FAA ADs. The FAA has since coordinated with other manufacturers and civil aviation authorities (CAAs) to use this process. As a result, EASA AD 2019-0270 will be incorporated by reference in the FAA final rule. This proposed AD would, therefore, require compliance with EASA AD 2019-0270 in its entirety, through that incorporation, except for any differences identified as exceptions in the regulatory text of this proposed AD. Using common terms that are the same as the heading of a particular section in the EASA AD does not mean that operators need comply only with that section. For example, where the AD requirement refers to "all required actions and compliance times," compliance with this AD requirement is not limited to the section titled "Required Action(s) and Compliance Time(s)" in the EASA AD.

Service information specified in EASA AD 2019-0270 that is required for compliance with EASA AD 2019-0270 will be available on the internet at <https://www.regulations.gov> by searching for and locating Docket No. FAA-2020-0088 after the FAA final rule is published.

Airworthiness Limitation ADs Using the New Process

The FAA's new process, which uses MCAI ADs as the primary source of information for compliance with corresponding FAA ADs, has been limited to certain MCAI ADs (primarily those with service bulletins as the primary source of information for accomplishing the actions required by the FAA AD). However, the FAA is now expanding the process to include MCAI ADs that specify the incorporation of airworthiness limitation documents.

Although the format of the airworthiness limitation ADs using the new process is different than the FAA's existing format for airworthiness limitation ADs, the FAA requirements are the same: Operators must revise the

existing maintenance or inspection program, as applicable, to incorporate the information specified in the new airworthiness limitation document.

The previous format of the airworthiness limitation ADs included a paragraph that specified that no alternative actions (*e.g.*, inspections), or intervals may be used unless the actions and intervals are approved as an alternative method of compliance (AMOC) in accordance with the procedures specified in the AMOCs paragraph under "Other FAA Provisions." This new format includes a "New Provisions for Alternative Actions and Intervals" paragraph that does not specifically refer to AMOCs, but operators may still request an AMOC to use an alternative action or interval.

Costs of Compliance

The FAA estimates that this proposed AD affects 21 airplanes of U.S. registry. The FAA estimates the following costs to comply with this proposed AD:

The FAA has determined that revising the maintenance or inspection program takes an average of 90 work-hours per operator, although the agency recognizes that this number may vary from operator to operator. In the past, the agency has estimated that this action takes 1 work-hour per airplane. Since operators incorporate maintenance or inspection program changes for their affected fleet(s), the FAA has determined that a per-operator estimate is more accurate than a per-airplane estimate.

The FAA estimates the total cost per operator for the new proposed actions to be \$7,650 (90 work-hours × \$85 per work-hour).

Authority for This Rulemaking

Title 49 of the United States Code specifies the FAA's authority to issue rules on aviation safety. Subtitle I, section 106, describes the authority of the FAA Administrator. Subtitle VII: Aviation Programs, describes in more detail the scope of the Agency's authority.

The FAA is issuing this rulemaking under the authority described in Subtitle VII, Part A, Subpart III, Section 44701: "General requirements." Under that section, Congress charges the FAA with promoting safe flight of civil aircraft in air commerce by prescribing regulations for practices, methods, and procedures the Administrator finds necessary for safety in air commerce. This regulation is within the scope of that authority because it addresses an unsafe condition that is likely to exist or develop on products identified in this rulemaking action.

Regulatory Findings

The FAA determined that this proposed AD would not have federalism implications under Executive Order 13132. This proposed AD would not have a substantial direct effect on the States, on the relationship between the national Government and the States, or on the distribution of power and responsibilities among the various levels of government.

For the reasons discussed above, I certify this proposed regulation:

- (1) Is not a "significant regulatory action" under Executive Order 12866,
- (2) Will not affect intrastate aviation in Alaska, and
- (3) Will not have a significant economic impact, positive or negative, on a substantial number of small entities under the criteria of the Regulatory Flexibility Act.

List of Subjects in 14 CFR Part 39

Air transportation, Aircraft, Aviation safety, Incorporation by reference, Safety.

The Proposed Amendment

Accordingly, under the authority delegated to me by the Administrator, the FAA proposes to amend 14 CFR part 39 as follows:

PART 39—AIRWORTHINESS DIRECTIVES

- 1. The authority citation for part 39 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 49 U.S.C. 106(g), 40113, 44701.

§ 39.13 [Amended]

- 2. The FAA amends § 39.13 by removing Airworthiness Directive (AD) 2004-06-01, Amendment 39-13527 (69 FR 13715, March 24, 2004); and AD 2009-06-09, Amendment 39-15845 (74 FR 12249, March 24, 2009); and adding the following new AD:

328 Support Services GmbH (Type Certificate Previously Held by AvCraft Aerospace GmbH; Fairchild Dornier GmbH; Dornier Luftfahrt GmbH): Docket No. FAA-2020-0088; Product Identifier 2019-NM-195-AD.

(a) Comments Due Date

The FAA must receive comments by March 19, 2020.

(b) Affected ADs

- (1) This AD replaces AD 2004-06-01, Amendment 39-13527 (69 FR 13715, March 24, 2004) ("AD 2004-06-01"); and AD 2009-06-09, Amendment 39-15845 (74 FR 12249, March 24, 2009) ("AD 2009-06-09").
- (2) This AD affects AD 2008-17-01 R1, Amendment 39-16106 (74 FR 63569, December 4, 2009) ("AD 2008-17-01 R1"); and AD 2012-01-08, Amendment 39-16920

(77 FR 3583, January 25, 2012) (“AD 2012–01–08”).

(c) Applicability

This AD applies to all 328 Support Services GmbH (Type Certificate previously held by AvCraft Aerospace GmbH; Fairchild Dornier GmbH; Dornier Luftfahrt GmbH) Model 328–100 airplanes, certificated in any category.

(d) Subject

Air Transport Association (ATA) of America Code 05, Time Limits/Maintenance Checks.

(e) Reason

This AD was prompted by a determination that new or more restrictive airworthiness limitations are necessary. The FAA is issuing this AD to address the potential failure of parts, which could lead to reduced control of the airplane; and to address the potential of ignition sources inside fuel tanks, which, in combination with flammable fuel vapors, could result in fuel tank explosions and consequent loss of the airplane.

(f) Compliance

Comply with this AD within the compliance times specified, unless already done.

(g) Existing Maintenance or Inspection Program Revision

Except as specified in paragraph (h) of this AD: Comply with all required actions and compliance times specified in, and in accordance with, European Union Aviation Safety Agency (EASA) AD 2019–0270, dated October 30, 2019 (“EASA AD 2019–0270”).

(h) Exceptions to EASA AD 2019–0270

(1) The requirements specified in paragraphs (1) and (2) of EASA AD 2019–0270 do not apply to this AD.

(2) Where paragraph (3) of EASA AD 2019–0270 specifies a compliance time of “Within 12 months” after its effective date to “revise the approved AMP,” this AD requires “revising the existing maintenance or inspection program, as applicable” to incorporate the “limitations, tasks and associated thresholds and intervals” specified in paragraph (3) of EASA AD 2019–0270 within 90 days after the effective date of this AD.

(3) The initial compliance time for doing the tasks specified in paragraph (3) of EASA AD 2019–0270 is at the applicable “associated thresholds” specified in paragraph (3) of EASA AD 2019–0270, or within 90 days after the effective date of this AD, whichever occurs later.

(4) The provisions specified in paragraphs (4) and (5) of EASA AD 2019–0270 do not apply to this AD.

(5) The “Remarks” section of EASA AD 2019–0270 does not apply to this AD.

(i) Provisions for Alternative Actions, Intervals, and Critical Design Configuration Control Limitation (CDCCLs)

After the existing maintenance or inspection program has been revised as required by paragraph (g) of this AD, no alternative actions (*e.g.*, inspections),

intervals, and CDCCLs are allowed except as specified in the provisions of the “Ref. Publications” section of EASA AD 2019–0270.

(j) Terminating Action for Other ADs

(1) Accomplishing the existing maintenance or inspection program revision required by paragraph (g) of this AD terminates all requirements of AD 2008–17–01 R1.

(2) Accomplishing the existing maintenance or inspection program revision required by paragraph (g) of this AD terminates all requirements of AD 2012–01–08 for Model 328–100 airplanes only.

(k) Other FAA AD Provisions

The following provisions also apply to this AD:

(1) *Alternative Methods of Compliance (AMOCs):* The Manager, International Section, Transport Standards Branch, FAA, has the authority to approve AMOCs for this AD, if requested using the procedures found in 14 CFR 39.19. In accordance with 14 CFR 39.19, send your request to your principal inspector or local Flight Standards District Office, as appropriate. If sending information directly to the International Section, send it to the attention of the person identified in paragraph (l)(2) of this AD. Information may be emailed to: 9-ANM-116-AMOC-REQUESTS@faa.gov. Before using any approved AMOC, notify your appropriate principal inspector, or lacking a principal inspector, the manager of the local flight standards district office/certificate holding district office.

(2) *Contacting the Manufacturer:* For any requirement in this AD to obtain instructions from a manufacturer, the instructions must be accomplished using a method approved by the Manager, International Section, Transport Standards Branch, FAA; or EASA; or 328 Support Services GmbH’s EASA Design Organization Approval (DOA). If approved by the DOA, the approval must include the DOA-authorized signature.

(l) Related Information

(1) For information about EASA AD 2019–0270, contact the EASA, Konrad-Adenauer-Ufer 3, 50668 Cologne, Germany; telephone +49 221 89990 6017; email ADs@easa.europa.eu; Internet www.easa.europa.eu. You may find this EASA AD on the EASA website at <https://ad.easa.europa.eu>. You may view this material at the FAA, Transport Standards Branch, 2200 South 216th St., Des Moines, WA. For information on the availability of this material at the FAA, call 206–231–3195. This material may be found in the AD docket on the internet at <https://www.regulations.gov> by searching for and locating Docket No. FAA–2020–0088.

(2) For more information about this AD, contact Todd Thompson, Aerospace Engineer, International Section, Transport Standards Branch, FAA, 2200 South 216th St., Des Moines, WA 98198; telephone and fax 206–231–3228; email Todd.Thompson@faa.gov.

Issued on January 27, 2020.

Lance T. Gant,

Director, Compliance & Airworthiness Division, Aircraft Certification Service.

[FR Doc. 2020–01922 Filed 1–31–20; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910–13–P

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

Coast Guard

33 CFR Part 165

[Docket Number USCG–2020–0058]

RIN 1625–AA00

Safety Zone; Monongahela River Mile 23.8 to Mile 26.0, Pittsburgh, PA

AGENCY: Coast Guard, DHS.

ACTION: Notice of proposed rulemaking.

SUMMARY: The Coast Guard is proposing to establish a temporary safety zone from mile 23.8 to mile 26.0 of the Monongahela River. This action is necessary to provide for the safety of life on these navigable waters near Elrama Power Plant, Pittsburgh, PA, during an electrical conductor pull from March 23, 2020 through April 6, 2020. This proposed rulemaking would prohibit persons and vessels from entering the safety zone unless authorized by the Captain of the Port Marine Safety Unit Pittsburgh or a designated representative. We invite your comments on this proposed rulemaking.

DATES: Comments and related material must be received by the Coast Guard on or before March 4, 2020.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments identified by docket number USCG–2020–0058 using the Federal eRulemaking Portal at <https://www.regulations.gov>. See the “Public Participation and Request for Comments” portion of the **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** section for further instructions on submitting comments.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: If you have questions about this proposed rulemaking, call or email MST2 Trevor Vannatta, Waterways Management U.S. Coast Guard; telephone 412–221–0807, email Trevor.J.Vannatta@uscg.mil.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Table of Abbreviations

CFR Code of Federal Regulations
 DHS Department of Homeland Security
 FR Federal Register
 NPRM Notice of proposed rulemaking
 § Section
 U.S.C. United States Code