

[Federal Register Volume 80, Number 136 (Thursday, July 16, 2015)]

[Rules and Regulations]

[Pages 42018-42020]

From the Federal Register Online via the Government Publishing Office [www.gpo.gov]

[FR Doc No: 2015-17200]

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Aviation Administration

14 CFR Part 39

[Docket No. FAA-2015-1177; Directorate Identifier 2015-CE-009-AD; Amendment 39-18208; AD 2015-14-10]

RIN 2120-AA64

Airworthiness Directives; PILATUS AIRCRAFT LTD. Airplanes

AGENCY: Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), Department of Transportation (DOT).

ACTION: Final rule.

SUMMARY: We are adopting a new airworthiness directive (AD) for PILATUS AIRCRAFT LTD. Model PC-12/47 and PC-12/47E airplanes. This AD results from mandatory continuing airworthiness information (MCAI) issued by an aviation authority of another country to identify and correct an unsafe condition on an aviation product. The MCAI describes the unsafe condition as the aileron trim tab disconnecting above 10,000 feet altitude. We are issuing this AD to require actions to address the unsafe condition on these products.

DATES: This AD is effective August 20, 2015.

The Director of the Federal Register approved the incorporation by reference of a certain publication listed in the AD as of August 20, 2015.

ADDRESSES: You may examine the AD docket on the Internet at <http://www.regulations.gov> by searching for and locating Docket No. FAA-2015-1177; or in person at Document Management Facility, U.S. Department of Transportation, Docket Operations, M-30, West Building Ground Floor, Room W12-140, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE., Washington, DC 20590.

For service information identified in this AD, contact PILATUS AIRCRAFT LTD, Customer Support Manager, CH-6371 STANS, Switzerland; phone: +41 (0)41 619 33 33; fax: +41 (0)41 619 73 11; email: aircraft.com">SupportPC12@pilatus-aircraft.com; internet: <http://www.pilatus-aircraft.com>. You may review this referenced service information at the FAA, Small Airplane Directorate, 901 Locust, Kansas City, Missouri 64106. For information on the availability of this material at the FAA, call (816) 329-4148.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Doug Rudolph, Aerospace Engineer, FAA, Small Airplane Directorate, 901 Locust, Room 301, Kansas City, Missouri 64106; telephone: (816) 329-4059; fax: (816) 329-4090; email: doug.rudolph@faa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:
Discussion

We issued a notice of proposed rulemaking (NPRM) to amend 14 CFR part 39 to adding an AD that would apply to PILATUS AIRCRAFT LTD. Model PC-12/47 and PC-12/47E airplanes. The NPRM was published in the Federal Register on May 1, 2015 (80 FR 24854). The NPRM proposed to correct an unsafe condition for the specified products and was based on mandatory continuing airworthiness information (MCAI) originated by an aviation authority of another country. The MCAI states:

During a continued airworthiness review, a potential unsafe condition was identified that could result from a disconnected aileron trim tab occurring above an altitude of 10.000 feet.

This condition, if not corrected, could lead, in case of a disconnection of an aileron trim tab, to undamped aeroplane vibrations, potentially resulting in structural failure.

To address this potential unsafe condition, Pilatus Aircraft Ltd. issued SB No. 27-021 to provide instructions for replacement of the aileron tab counter balance weight.

For the reason described above, this AD requires replacement of the aileron tab counter balance weight with a new, slightly heavier, aileron tab counter balance weight.

The MCAI can be found in the AD docket on the Internet at:
<http://www.regulations.gov/#!documentDetail;D=FAA-2015-1177-0002>.

Comments

We gave the public the opportunity to participate in developing this AD. The following presents the comments received on the proposal and the FAA's response to each comment.

Request Revision of Paragraph (e) Reason of the AD

Johan Kruger stated the sentence of paragraph (e) Reason in the proposed AD was incomplete and misleading:

We are issuing this AD to prevent a disconnected aileron trim tab, which could lead to undamped airplane vibrations, potentially resulting in structural failure.

Johan Kruger proposed replacing the above sentence with this sentence similar to the MCAI:

We are issuing this AD to prevent undamped airplane vibrations, potentially resulting in structural failure in case of a disconnected aileron trim tab.

We agree with the commenter that the proposed sentence is clarification of the unsafe condition. We have adopted the proposed sentence in paragraph (e) of the AD.

Request Correction of Part Number (P/N)

Johan Kruger stated the cited part number (P/N) 27.15.12.037 of the aileron trim tab assembly quoted is wrong in paragraphs (f)(2) and (f)(3) of the proposed AD; the correct P/N is 527.15.12.037. We infer that the commenter requested correction of the incorrect P/N.

We agree with the commenter that the P/N in the proposed AD is incorrect. We have changed the incorrect P/N to 527.15.12.037 in paragraphs (f)(2) and (f)(3) of the AD.

Request Correction of Misleading Wording in Paragraph (f)(4) of the AD

Johan Kruger commented the wording in paragraph 2(f)(4) is misleading, ". . . provided that an aileron trim tab assembly, P/N 527.15.12.037 or 527.15.12.038 is not installed on the airplane."

Johan Kruger further wrote that Pilatus proposed the wording be changed to read, ". . . provided that an aileron trim tab assembly, P/N 527.15.12.037 or 527.15.12.038 is not installed on that aileron assembly."

We infer the commenter means paragraph (f)(4) of the AD.

We agree with the commenter. Aileron trim tab assemblies will only be associated with aileron assemblies and not by airplane. The aileron assemblies themselves are associated with the airplane number. We have adopted the proposed wording in paragraph (f)(4) of the AD.

Conclusion

We reviewed the relevant data, considered the comments received, and determined that air safety and the public interest require adopting the AD with the changes described previously and minor editorial changes. We have determined that these minor changes:

- Are consistent with the intent that was proposed in the NPRM (80 FR 24854, May 1, 2015) for correcting the unsafe condition; and
- Do not add any additional burden upon the public than was already proposed in the NPRM (80 FR 24854, May 1, 2015).

We also determined that these changes will not increase the economic burden on any operator or increase the scope of the AD.

Relative Service Information Under 1 CFR Part 51

We reviewed PILATUS AIRCRAFT LTD. PILATUS PC-12 Service Bulletin No: 27-021, dated January 20, 2015. The service information describes procedures for replacement of the aileron tab counter balance weight. This service information 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 of this final rule.

Costs of Compliance

We estimate that this AD will affect 303 products of U.S. registry. We also estimate that it would take about 5.5 work hours per product to comply with the basic requirements of this AD. The average labor rate is \$85 per work-hour. Required parts would cost about \$1,000 per product.

Based on these figures, we estimate the cost of the AD on U.S. operators to be \$444,652.50, or \$1,467.50 per product.

According to the manufacturer, some of the costs of this AD may be covered under warranty, thereby reducing the cost impact on affected individuals. We do not control warranty coverage for affected individuals. As a result, we have included all costs in our cost estimate.

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.

We are 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

We determined that this AD will not have federalism implications under Executive Order 13132. This AD will 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 AD:

- (1) Is not a "significant regulatory action" under Executive Order 12866,
- (2) Is not a "significant rule" under the DOT Regulatory Policies and Procedures (44 FR 11034, February 26, 1979),
- (3) Will not affect intrastate aviation in Alaska, and
- (4) 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.

Examining the AD Docket

You may examine the AD docket on the Internet at <http://www.regulations.gov> by searching for and locating Docket No. FAA-2015-1177; or in person at the Docket Management Facility between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays. The AD docket contains the NPRM, the regulatory evaluation, any comments received, and other information. The street address for the Docket Office (telephone (800) 647-5527) is in the ADDRESSES section. Comments will be available in the AD docket shortly after receipt.

List of Subjects in 14 CFR Part 39

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

Adoption of the Amendment

Accordingly, under the authority delegated to me by the Administrator, the FAA amends 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 adding the following new AD:



2015-14-10 PILATUS AIRCRAFT LTD.: Amendment 39-18208; Docket No. FAA-2015-1177; Directorate Identifier 2015-CE-009-AD.

(a) Effective Date

This airworthiness directive (AD) becomes effective August 20, 2015.

(b) Affected ADs

None.

(c) Applicability

This AD applies to the following PILATUS AIRCRAFT LTD. model and serial number airplanes, certificated in any category.

- (1) Model PC-12/47, manufacturer serial numbers (MSNs) 684 through MSN 888; and
- (2) Model PC-12/47E, MSNs 545, and 1001 through 1520.

(d) Subject

Air Transport Association of America (ATA) Code 27: Flight Controls.

(e) Reason

This AD was prompted by mandatory continuing airworthiness information (MCAI) originated by an aviation authority of another country to identify and correct an unsafe condition on an aviation product. The MCAI describes the unsafe condition as the aileron trim tab disconnecting above 10,000 feet altitude. We are issuing this AD to prevent undamped airplane vibrations, potentially resulting in structural failure in case of a disconnected aileron trim tab.

(f) Actions and Compliance

Unless already done, do the following actions:

(1) For airplanes equipped with aileron trim tab assembly, part number (P/N) 527.15.12.037 or 527.15.12.038; or aileron assembly, P/N 557.05.12.015, 557.05.12.016, 557.05.12.017, or 557.05.12.018: Within 12 months after August 20, 2015 (the effective date of this AD), replace the aileron tab counter balance weight and re-identify the aileron trim tab assembly following the instructions of PILATUS PC-12 Service Bulletin No: 27-021, dated January 20, 2015.

(2) For airplanes that on August 20, 2015 (the effective date of this AD) has an aileron trim tab assembly, P/N 527.15.12.037 or 527.15.12.038, installed: After modification of that airplane as required by paragraph (f)(1) of this AD, do not install another aileron trim tab assembly with P/N 527.15.12.037 or 527.15.12.038.

(3) For airplanes that on August 20, 2015 (the effective date of this AD) does not have an aileron trim tab assembly, P/N 527.15.12.037 or 527.15.12.038, installed: After August 20, 2015 (the

effective date of this AD), do not install an aileron trim tab assembly with P/N 527.15.12.037 or 527.15.12.038.

(4) For all airplanes: After August 20, 2015 (the effective date of this AD), you are allowed to install on an airplane an aileron assembly, having a P/N 557.05.12.015, 557.05.12.016, 557.05.12.017, or 557.05.12.018, provided that an aileron trim tab assembly, P/N 527.15.12.037 or 527.15.12.038 is not installed on that aileron assembly.

(g) Other FAA AD Provisions

The following provisions also apply to this AD:

(1) Alternative Methods of Compliance (AMOCs): The Manager, Standards Office, FAA, has the authority to approve AMOCs for this AD, if requested using the procedures found in 14 CFR 39.19. Send information to ATTN: Doug Rudolph, Aerospace Engineer, FAA, Small Airplane Directorate, 901 Locust, Room 301, Kansas City, Missouri 64106; telephone: (816) 329-4059; fax: (816) 329-4090; email: doug.rudolph@faa.gov. Before using any approved AMOC on any airplane to which the AMOC applies, notify your appropriate principal inspector (PI) in the FAA Flight Standards District Office (FSDO), or lacking a PI, your local FSDO.

(2) Airworthy Product: For any requirement in this AD to obtain corrective actions from a manufacturer or other source, use these actions if they are FAA-approved. Corrective actions are considered FAA-approved if they are approved by the State of Design Authority (or their delegated agent). You are required to assure the product is airworthy before it is returned to service.

(h) Related Information

Refer to MCAI European Aviation Safety Agency (EASA) AD No.: 2015-0060, dated April 10, 2015, for related information. The MCAI can be found in the AD docket on the Internet at: <http://www.regulations.gov/#!documentDetail;D=FAA-2015-1177-0002>.

(i) Material Incorporated by Reference

(1) The Director of the Federal Register approved the incorporation by reference (IBR) of the service information listed in this paragraph under 5 U.S.C. 552(a) and 1 CFR part 51.

(2) You must use this service information as applicable to do the actions required by this AD, unless the AD specifies otherwise.

(i) PILATUS AIRCRAFT LTD. PILATUS PC-12 Service Bulletin No: 27-021, dated January 20, 2015.

(ii) Reserved.

(3) For PILATUS AIRCRAFT LTD. service information identified in this AD, contact PILATUS AIRCRAFT LTD, Customer Support Manager, CH-6371 STANS, Switzerland; phone: +41 (0)41 619 33 33; fax: +41 (0)41 619 73 11; email: SupportPC12@pilatus-aircraft.com; internet: <http://www.pilatus-aircraft.com>.

(4) You may view this service information at the FAA, Small Airplane Directorate, 901 Locust, Kansas City, Missouri 64106. For information on the availability of this material at the FAA, call (816) 329-4148. In addition, you can access this service information on the Internet at <http://www.regulations.gov> by searching for and locating Docket No. FAA-2015-1177.

(5) You may view this service information that is incorporated by reference at the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA). For information on the availability of this material at NARA, call 202-741-6030, or go to: <http://www.archives.gov/federal-register/cfr/ibr-locations.html>.

Issued in Kansas City, Missouri, on July 7, 2015.
Earl Lawrence,
Manager, Small Airplane Directorate,
Aircraft Certification Service.