

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. 2002-NM-58-AD]

RIN 2120-AA64

Airworthiness Directives; BAE Systems (Operations) Limited (Jetstream) Model 4101 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 all BAE Systems (Operations) Limited (Jetstream) Model 4101 airplanes. This proposal would require repetitively inspecting the seat rails located in the passenger cabin for evidence of damage and corrosion, repairing any damage or corrosion, and replacing any floor panels found to be "soft" due to ingress of moisture. This action is necessary to detect and correct corrosion on the seat rails for the passenger seats, which could result in the reduced structural integrity of the passenger seats, detachment of the seats from the seat rails, and injury to passengers. This action is intended to address the identified unsafe condition.

DATES: Comments must be received by October 27, 2003.

ADDRESSES: Submit comments in triplicate to the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), Transport Airplane Directorate, ANM-114, Attention: Rules Docket No. 2002-NM-58-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. Comments sent

via fax or the Internet must contain "Docket No. 2002-NM-58-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-58-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-58-AD, 1601 Lind Avenue, SW., Renton, Washington 98055-4056.

Discussion

The Civil Aviation Authority (CAA), which is the airworthiness authority for the United Kingdom, notified the FAA that an unsafe condition may exist on all BAE Systems (Operations) Limited (Jetstream) Model 4101 airplanes. The CAA advises that corrosion has been found on seat rails located in the passenger cabin. The corrosion has been attributed to fluid spillage and collection of debris inside the tracks of the seat rails. Such corrosion, if not corrected, could result in the reduced structural integrity of the passenger seats, detachment of the seats from the seat rails, and injury to passengers.

Explanation of Relevant Service Information

BAE Systems (Operations) Limited has issued Service Bulletin J41-53-050, dated January 25, 2002, which describes procedures for repetitively inspecting the seat rails located in the passenger cabin, two above and two below the floor panels, for evidence of damage (missing paint from the frames or support angles) or corrosion; repairing any damage or corrosion; and replacing any floor panels found to be "soft" due to ingress of moisture. Accomplishment of the actions specified in the service bulletin is intended to adequately address the identified unsafe condition. The CAA classified this service bulletin as mandatory and issued British airworthiness directive 005-01-2002 to ensure the continued airworthiness of these airplanes in the United Kingdom.

FAA's Conclusions

This airplane model is manufactured in the United Kingdom 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, the CAA has kept the FAA informed of the situation described above. The FAA has examined the findings of the CAA, 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.

Explanation of Requirements of Proposed Rule

Since an unsafe condition has been identified that is likely to exist or develop on other airplanes of the same type design registered in the United States, the proposed AD would require accomplishment of the actions specified in the service bulletin described previously, except as discussed below.

Differences Between the Proposed AD and the Service Information

Although the service bulletin specifies that operators may contact the manufacturer for disposition of certain repair conditions, this proposal would require operators to repair those conditions per a method approved by either the FAA or the CAA (or its delegated agent). In light of the type of repair that would be required to address the unsafe condition, and consistent with existing bilateral airworthiness agreements, we have determined that, for this proposed AD, a repair approved by either the FAA or the CAA would be acceptable for compliance with this proposed AD.

Changes to 14 CFR Part 39/Effect on the Proposed AD

On July 10, 2002, the FAA issued a new version of 14 CFR part 39 (67 FR 47997, July 22, 2002), which governs the FAA's airworthiness directives system. The regulation now includes material that relates to altered products, special flight permits, and alternative methods of compliance (AMOCs). Because we have now included this material in part 39, only the office authorized to approve AMOCs is identified in each individual AD.

Change to Labor Rate Estimate

We have reviewed the figures we have used over the past several years to calculate AD costs to operators. To account for various inflationary costs in

the airline industry, we find it necessary to increase the labor rate used in these calculations from \$60 per work hour to \$65 per work hour. The cost impact information, below, reflects this increase in the specified hourly labor rate.

Cost Impact

The FAA estimates that 57 airplanes of U.S. registry would be affected by this proposed AD, that it would take approximately 30 work hours per airplane to accomplish the proposed inspection, and that the average labor rate is \$65 per work hour. Based on these figures, the cost impact of the proposed AD on U.S. operators is estimated to be \$111,150, or \$1,950 per airplane.

The cost impact figure discussed above is based on assumptions that no operator has yet accomplished any of the proposed requirements of this AD action, and that no operator would accomplish those actions in the future if this AD were not adopted. The cost impact figures discussed in AD rulemaking actions represent only the time necessary to perform the specific actions actually required by the AD. These figures typically do not include incidental costs, such as the time required to gain access and close up, planning time, or time necessitated by other administrative actions.

Regulatory Impact

The regulations proposed herein 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. Therefore, it is determined that this proposal would not have federalism implications under Executive Order 13132.

For the reasons discussed above, I certify that this proposed regulation (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); and (3) if promulgated, 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. A copy of the draft regulatory evaluation prepared for this action is contained in the Rules Docket. A copy of it may be obtained by contacting the Rules Docket at the location provided under the caption **ADDRESSES**.

List of Subjects in 14 CFR Part 39

Air transportation, Aircraft, Aviation safety, Safety.

The Proposed Amendment

Accordingly, pursuant to the authority delegated to me by the Administrator, the Federal Aviation Administration proposes to amend part 39 of the Federal Aviation Regulations (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. Section 39.13 is amended by adding the following new airworthiness directive:

BAE Systems (Operations) Limited (Formerly British Aerospace Regional Aircraft): Docket 2002–NM–58–AD.

Applicability: All Model Jetstream 4101 airplanes, certificated in any category.

Compliance: Required as indicated, unless accomplished previously.

To detect and correct corrosion on the seat rails for the passenger seats, which could result in the reduced structural integrity of the passenger seats, detachment of the seats from the seat rails, and injury to passengers, accomplish the following:

Inspection and Corrective Actions

(a) Within 1 year after the effective date of this AD, do a detailed inspection of the seat rails located in the passenger cabin, two above and two below the floor panels, for evidence of damage (missing paint from the frames or support angles) or corrosion, in accordance with the Accomplishment Instructions of BAE Systems (Operations) Limited Service Bulletin J41–53–050, dated January 25, 2002.

Note 1: For the purposes of this AD, a detailed inspection is defined as: "An intensive visual examination of a specific structural area, system, installation, or assembly to detect damage, failure, or irregularity. Available lighting is normally supplemented with a direct source of good lighting at intensity deemed appropriate by the inspector. Inspection aids such as mirror, magnifying lenses, etc., may be used. Surface cleaning and elaborate access procedures may be required."

(1) If no damage (missing paint from the frames or support angles) or corrosion is found, repeat the detailed inspections thereafter at intervals not to exceed 2 years.

(2) If any damage (missing paint from the frames or support angles) is found, before further flight, re-protect the area per the Accomplishment Instructions of the service bulletin.

(3) If any corrosion is found, before further flight, repair in accordance with the Accomplishment Instructions of the service

bulletin. Where the service bulletin specifies that the manufacturer may be contacted for disposition of certain repair conditions, repair per a method approved by either the Manager, International Branch, ANM-116, FAA, Transport Airplane Directorate; or the Civil Aviation Authority (or its delegated agent).

(b) If any floor panels are found to be "soft" due to ingress of moisture, before further flight, replace them in accordance with the Accomplishment Instructions of the service bulletin.

Submission of Information to the Manufacturer Not Required

(c) Although the service bulletin referenced in this AD specifies to submit information to the manufacturer, this AD does not include such a requirement.

Alternative Methods of Compliance

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

Note 2: The subject of this AD is addressed in British airworthiness directive 005-01-2002.

Issued in Renton, Washington, on September 19, 2003.

Kalene C. Yanamura,

Acting Manager, Transport Airplane Directorate, Aircraft Certification Service.

[FR Doc. 03-24286 Filed 9-24-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-13-P

SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION

20 CFR Parts 404, 408 and 416

[Regulation Nos. 4, 8, and 16]

RIN 0960-AF83

Representative Payment Under Titles II, VIII and XVI of the Social Security Act

AGENCY: Social Security Administration (SSA).

ACTION: Proposed rules.

SUMMARY: We propose to revise our regulations explaining the procedures we follow in determining the need for a representative payee, the procedures we follow in selecting a representative payee, the responsibilities of a representative payee, and restitution of benefits where SSA is negligent under titles II, VIII and XVI of the Social Security Act (the Act). This regulation codifies SSA's long-standing enacted representative payee policy based on statutory changes made since 1990. This regulation sets forth our rules applicable to claims for special veteran's benefits (SVB) under title VIII of the Act. We began making payments under the SVB program in May 2000. We propose to

add new rules on Representative Payment for the SVB program.

The proposed changes to the representative payee provisions of the regulations will reflect several statutory changes that provide protection for beneficiaries who need representative payees. These proposed changes include representative payment procedures for investigating payee applicants, identifying unsuitable applicants, making direct payment in some circumstances, providing advance notice of our determination to make representative payment, and providing affected beneficiaries with the opportunity to appeal our determinations. Also included are procedures for making restitution of benefits where a payee has misused a beneficiary's payments and SSA was negligent in investigating or monitoring the payee, and representative payee policies and procedures for the title VIII program.

DATES: To consider your comments, we must receive them no later than November 24, 2003.

ADDRESSES: You may give us your comments by: using our Internet site facility (*i.e.*, Social Security Online) at <http://policy.ssa.gov/pnpublic.nsf/LawRegs>; e-mail to regulations@ssa.gov; telefax to (410) 965-2830; or letter to the Commissioner of Social Security, P.O. Box 17703, Baltimore, MD 21235-7703. You may also deliver them to the Office of Regulations, Social Security Administration, 100 Altmeyer Building, 6401 Security Boulevard, Baltimore, MD 21235-6401, between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. on regular business days. Comments are posted on our Internet site for your review, or you may inspect them physically on regular business days by making arrangements with the contact person shown in this preamble.

Electronic Version

The electronic file of this document is available on the date of publication in the **Federal Register** on the Internet site for the Government Printing Office, <http://www.gpoaccess.gov/fr/index.html>. It is also available on the Internet site for SSA (*i.e.*, Social Security Online) at <http://policy.ssa.gov/pnpublic.nsf/LawRegs>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Regarding this **Federal Register** document—Robert Augustine, Social Insurance Specialist, Office of Regulations, Social Security Administration, 6401 Security Boulevard, Baltimore, MD 21235-6401, (410) 965-0020 or TTY (410) 966-5609; regarding eligibility or filing for benefits—our national toll-free number,

1-800-772-1213 or TTY 1-800-325-0778 or visit our internet web site, Social Security Online at <http://www.socialsecurity.gov>.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

We are withdrawing the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) we published in the **Federal Register** on March 15, 1994 (59 FR 11949). This notice, which includes proposed changes that reflect legislation affecting representative payment policies enacted since 1990, replaces it.

Subpart U of part 404 and subpart F of part 416 of our regulations explain the principles and procedures that we follow in determining whether to make representative payment and in selecting a representative payee under the title II and title XVI programs. These subparts also describe the responsibilities of a representative payee regarding the use of funds the payee receives on behalf of the beneficiary. Under the authority provided in sections 205(j) and 1631(a)(2) of the Act and these regulations, we select a representative payee for a person receiving Social Security benefits under title II or supplemental security income (SSI) benefits under title XVI of the Act if we believe that representative payment rather than direct payment of benefits is in the interest of that person.

In selecting a representative payee, we choose the person, agency, or organization that we believe will best serve the interest of a beneficiary. Any person or organization chosen as a representative payee must use benefits and accept all payee responsibilities as required under the Act and our regulations.

A. Changes Required by Public Law 101-508

Section 5105(a)(1) and (2), and (c) of Public Law (Pub. L.) 101-508, the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1990 (OBRA 90) enacted November 5, 1990, amended sections 205(j) and 1631(a)(2) of the Act. These sections of OBRA 90 made numerous modifications and additions to the representative payee provisions of the Act and were intended to provide additional safeguards and protection for beneficiaries who need representative payees. These modifications and additions include:

- Investigating representative payee applicants;
- Identifying unsuitable representative payee applicants;
- Making direct payment to some beneficiaries while we try to find a representative payee;