

Issued in Kansas City, Missouri, on January 15, 2003.

**Michael Gallagher,**

*Manager, Small Airplane Directorate, Aircraft Certification Service.*

[FR Doc. 03-1677 Filed 1-24-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-13-P

## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

### Federal Aviation Administration

#### 14 CFR Part 39

[Docket No. 2002-NE-19-AD]

RIN 2120-AA64

#### **Airworthiness Directives; Rolls-Royce plc RB211 Trent 875, 877, 884, 892, 892B, and 895 Series Turbofan Engines**

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

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

**SUMMARY:** The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) proposes to adopt a new airworthiness directive (AD) that is applicable to Rolls-Royce plc (RR) RB211 Trent 875, 877, 884, 892, 892B, and 895 series turbofan engines. This proposal would require initial and repetitive visual inspections of the intermediate pressure (IP) compressor rear stubshaft and IP turbine shaft for load-bearing spline flank wear, and replacement of these shafts if necessary. This proposal is prompted by reports of IP compressor rear stubshaft and IP turbine shaft load-bearing spline flank wear, revealed at inspection during overhaul. The actions specified by the proposed AD are intended to prevent the loss of drive between the IP turbine and the IP compressor, which could result in a turbine rotor overspeed condition, possible uncontained engine failure, and damage to the airplane.

**DATES:** Comments must be received by March 28, 2003.

**ADDRESSES:** Submit comments in triplicate to the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), New England Region, Office of the Regional Counsel, Attention: Rules Docket No. 2002-NE-19-AD, 12 New England Executive Park, Burlington, MA 01803-5299. Comments may be inspected at this location, by appointment, between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays. Comments may also be sent via the Internet using the following address: [9-ane-adcomment@faa.gov](mailto:9-ane-adcomment@faa.gov). Comments sent via the Internet must contain the docket number in the subject line.

#### **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**

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 should 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.

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-NE-19-AD." The postcard will be date stamped and returned to the commenter.

##### **Availability of NPRM's**

Any person may obtain a copy of this NPRM by submitting a request to the FAA, New England Region, Office of the Regional Counsel, Attention: Rules Docket No. 2002-NE-19-AD, 12 New England Executive Park, Burlington, MA 01803-5299.

##### **Discussion**

The Civil Aviation Authority (CAA), which is the airworthiness authority for the United Kingdom (U.K.), notified the FAA that an unsafe condition may exist on RR RB211 Trent 875, 877, 884, 892, 892B, and 895 series turbofan engines. The CAA advises that twelve reports have been received of overhaul inspections revealing unacceptable levels of flank wear on IP compressor rear stubshaft splines and IP turbine shaft splines. This unacceptable wear is

attributed to the current design air/oil mist lubrication method used for the splines. Excessive wear can lead to loss of spline drive between the IP compressor and the IP turbine shaft, resulting in IP turbine rotor overspeed and possible uncontained engine failure.

##### **Pending Optional Terminating Action**

RR has informed the FAA that they are planning an optional terminating action for the repetitive inspections specified in paragraph (a) of this proposal. This optional terminating action will incorporate improved modules with new identities. RR is planning to introduce information in the first quarter of 2003 on modifying affected modules to new module identities in RR Major Modification Bulletin No. 72-D495.

##### **Bilateral Agreement Information**

This engine model is manufactured in the U.K. 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.

##### **Proposed Requirements of this AD**

Since an unsafe condition has been identified that is likely to exist or develop on other RR RB211 Trent 875, 877, 884, 892, 892B, and 895 series turbofan engines of the same type design, the proposed AD would require initial and repetitive visual inspections of the IP compressor rear stubshaft and IP turbine shaft for load-bearing spline flank wear, and replacement of these shafts if necessary.

##### **Economic Analysis**

There are approximately 350 engines of the affected design in the worldwide fleet. The FAA estimates that 102 engines installed on aircraft of U.S. registry would be affected by this proposed AD. The FAA also estimates that it would take approximately 0.5 work hour per engine to accomplish the proposed inspection for parts determined not worn, and an additional 1.5 work hours per engine for parts determined worn that would require further inspection. The average labor rate is \$60 per work hour. Based on

these figures, the total cost of the proposed AD to U.S. operators is estimated to be \$12,240.00.

### Regulatory Analysis

This proposed rule does not have federalism implications, as defined in Executive Order 13132, because it 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. Accordingly, the FAA has not consulted with state authorities prior to publication of this proposed rule.

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:

**Rolls-Royce plc:** Docket No. 2002-NE-19-AD.

**Applicability:** This airworthiness directive (AD) is applicable to Rolls-Royce plc RB211 Trent 875, 877, 884, 892, 892B, and 895 series turbofan engines. These engines are installed on, but not limited to Boeing 777 airplanes.

**Note 1:** This airworthiness directive (AD) applies to each engine identified in the preceding applicability provision, regardless

of whether it has been modified, altered, or repaired in the area subject to the requirements of this AD. For engines that have been modified, altered, or repaired so that the performance of the requirements of this AD is affected, the owner/operator must request approval for an alternative method of compliance in accordance with paragraph (b) of this AD. The request should include an assessment of the effect of the modification, alteration, or repair on the unsafe condition addressed by this AD; and, if the unsafe condition has not been eliminated, the request should include specific proposed actions to address it.

**Compliance:** Compliance with this AD is required as indicated, unless already done.

To prevent the loss of drive between the intermediate pressure (IP) turbine and the IP compressor, which could result in a turbine rotor overspeed condition, possible uncontained engine failure, and damage to the airplane, do the following:

(a) At or before the accumulation of 4,500 cycles-in-service after the effective date of this AD, remove the 05 module (consisting of the IP turbine and low pressure turbine) and do the following:

(1) Visually inspect the load-bearing splines of the IP turbine shaft for flank wear.

(2) If flank wear is 0.001 inch or less, return the 05 module to service and repetitively inspect the splines within 4,500 cycles-since-last-inspection, as specified in paragraph (a) of this AD.

(3) If flank wear is between 0.001 inch and 0.005 inch, also visually inspect the load-bearing splines of the IP compressor rear stubshaft for flank wear.

(4) Replace any shaft with load-bearing spline wear over 0.005 inch.

(5) If flank wear on load-bearing splines is between 0.001 inch and 0.005 inch, return the 05 module to service and repetitively inspect the splines within 2,000 cycles-since-last-inspection, as specified in paragraph (a) of this AD. Information on inspection of these splines can be found in Rolls-Royce Mandatory Service Bulletin RB.211-72-D339, dated September 14, 2001.

### Alternative Methods of Compliance

(b) An alternative method of compliance or adjustment of the compliance time that provides an acceptable level of safety may be used if approved by the Manager, Engine Certification Office (ECO). Operators must submit their request through an appropriate FAA Principal Maintenance Inspector, who may add comments and then send it to the Manager, ECO.

**Note 2:** Information concerning the existence of approved alternative methods of compliance with this airworthiness directive, if any, may be obtained from the ECO.

### Special Flight Permits

(c) Special flight permits may be issued in accordance with §§ 21.197 and 21.199 of the Federal Aviation Regulations (14 CFR 21.197 and 21.199) to operate the airplane to a location where the requirements of this AD can be done.

**Note 3:** The subject of this AD is addressed in CAA airworthiness directive 003-09-2001, dated September 14, 2001.

Issued in Burlington, Massachusetts, on January 16, 2003.

**Francis A. Favara,**

*Acting Manager, Engine and Propeller Directorate, Aircraft Certification Service.*

[FR Doc. 03-1676 Filed 1-24-03; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4910-13-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

### Federal Aviation Administration

#### 14 CFR Part 71

[Docket No. FAA-2002-13514; Airspace Docket No. 02-AWA-4]

RIN 2120-AA66

### Proposed Establishment of Class C Airspace and Revocation of Class D Airspace, Fayetteville (Springdale), Northwest Arkansas Regional Airport; AR

**AGENCY:** Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), DOT.

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

**SUMMARY:** This notice proposes to establish a Class C airspace area and revoke the existing Class D airspace area at the Northwest Arkansas Regional Airport (XNA), Fayetteville (Springdale), AR. The FAA is proposing this action due to the increase in aircraft operations at XNA and the potential for a midair collision between aircraft arriving and departing XNA and other aircraft operating close to the existing Class D airspace area. The establishment of this Class C airspace area would require pilots to establish and maintain two-way radio communications with air traffic control (ATC) and operate with an altitude encoding transponder while in and above the Class C airspace area. The FAA is taking this action to promote the efficient use of airspace, and reduce the risk of midair collision in the northwest Arkansas terminal area.

**DATES:** Comments must be received on or before March 13, 2003.

**ADDRESSES:** Send comments on this proposal to the Docket Management System, U.S. Department of Transportation, Room Plaza 401, 400 Seventh Street, SW., Washington, DC 20591-0001. You must identify the docket numbers FAA-2002-13514/Airspace Docket No. 02-AWA-4, at the beginning of your comments.

You may also submit comments on the Internet at <http://dms.dot.gov>. You may review the public docket containing the proposal, any comments received, and any final disposition in person in the Dockets Office between 9