

[Federal Register, Volume 89 Number 236 (Monday, December 9, 2024)]
[Rules and Regulations]
[Pages 97502-97505]
From the Federal Register Online via the Government Publishing Office [www.gpo.gov]
[FR Doc No: 2024-28788]

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Aviation Administration

14 CFR Part 39

[Docket No. FAA-2024-2128; Project Identifier MCAI-2024-00136-T; Amendment 39-22896; AD 2024-24-06]

RIN 2120-AA64

Airworthiness Directives; ATR-GIE Avions de Transport Régional Airplanes

AGENCY:

Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), DOT.

ACTION:

Final rule.

SUMMARY:

The FAA is superseding Airworthiness Directive (AD) 2023-03-09, which applied to certain ATR-GIE Avions de Transport Régional Model ATR72-101, -102, -201, -202, -211, -212, and -212A airplanes. AD 2023-03-09 required revising the existing maintenance or inspection program, as applicable, to incorporate new or more restrictive airworthiness limitations. This AD was prompted a determination that new or more restrictive airworthiness limitations are necessary. This AD continues to require the actions in AD 2023-03-09 and requires 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 is incorporated by reference. The FAA is issuing this AD to address the unsafe condition on these products.

DATES:

This AD is effective January 13, 2025.

The Director of the Federal Register approved the incorporation by reference of a certain publication listed in this AD as of January 13, 2025.

The Director of the Federal Register approved the incorporation by reference of a certain other publication listed in this AD as of April 3, 2023 ([88 FR 12139](#), February 27, 2023).

ADDRESSES:

AD Docket: You may examine the AD docket at *regulations.gov* under Docket No. FAA-2024-2128; 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 final rule, the mandatory continuing airworthiness information (MCAI), any comments received, and other information. The address for Docket Operations is U.S. Department of Transportation, Docket Operations, M-30, West Building Ground Floor, Room W12-140, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE, Washington, DC 20590.

Material Incorporated by Reference:

- For EASA material identified in this AD, contact EASA, Konrad-Adenauer-Ufer 3, 50668 Cologne, Germany; telephone +49 221 8999 000; email ADs@easa.europa.eu; website easa.europa.eu. You may find this material on the EASA website at ad.easa.europa.eu.
- You may view this material at the FAA, Airworthiness Products Section, Operational Safety 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 at *regulations.gov* under Docket No. FAA-2024-2128.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Shahram Daneshmandi, Aviation Safety Engineer, FAA, 1600 Stewart Avenue, Suite 410, Westbury, NY 11590; telephone 206-231-3220; email: shahram.daneshmandi@faa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

The FAA issued a notice of proposed rulemaking (NPRM) to amend [14 CFR part 39](#) to supersede AD 2023-03-09, Amendment 39-22334 ([88 FR 12139](#), February 27, 2023) (AD 2023-03-09). AD 2023-03-09 applied to certain ATR-GIE Avions de Transport Régional Model ATR72-101, -102, -201, -202, -211, -212, and -212A airplanes. AD 2023-03-09 required revising the existing maintenance or inspection program, as applicable, to incorporate new or more restrictive airworthiness limitations. The FAA issued AD 2023-03-09 to address fatigue cracking and damage in principal structural elements, which could result in reduced structural integrity of the airplane.

The NPRM published in the **Federal Register** on August 20, 2024 ([89 FR 67329](#)). The NPRM was prompted by AD 2024-0053, dated February 23, 2024, issued by EASA, which is the Technical Agent for the Member States of the European Union (EASA AD 2024-0053) (also referred to as the MCAI). The MCAI states that new or more restrictive airworthiness limitations have been developed.

In the NPRM, the FAA proposed to continue to require the actions in AD 2023-03-09 and to require revising the existing maintenance or inspection program, as applicable, to incorporate new or more restrictive airworthiness limitations, as specified in EASA AD 2024-0053. The FAA is issuing this AD to address fatigue cracking and damage in principal structural elements, which could result in reduced structural integrity of the airplane.

You may examine the MCAI in the AD docket at *regulations.gov* under Docket No. FAA-2024-2128.

Discussion of Final Airworthiness Directive

Comments

The FAA received a comment from Air Line Pilots Association, International (ALPA), who supported the NPRM without change.

Conclusion

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 this State of Design Authority, it has notified the FAA of the unsafe condition described in the MCAI referenced above. The FAA reviewed the relevant data, considered the comment received, and determined that air safety requires adopting this AD as proposed. Accordingly, the FAA is issuing this AD to address the unsafe condition on this product. Except for minor editorial changes, this AD is adopted as proposed in the NPRM. None of the changes will increase the economic burden on any operator.

Material Incorporated by Reference Under [1 CFR Part 51](#)

EASA AD 2024-0053, dated February 23, 2024, specifies new or more restrictive airworthiness limitations for airplane structures and safe life limits. EASA AD 2024-0053 states that the new limitations include repetitive operational tests as required by EASA AD 2020-0249R1, dated November 30, 2021 (EASA AD 2020-0249R1).

This AD also requires EASA AD 2022-0201, dated September 26, 2022, which the Director of the Federal Register approved for incorporation by reference as of April 3, 2023 ([88 FR 12139](#), February 27, 2023).

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.

Related AD

EASA AD 2020-0249, dated November 11, 2020, corresponds to FAA AD 2020-26-17, Amendment 39-21372 ([85 FR 81795](#), December 17, 2020) (AD 2020-26-17), which applies to Model ATR42 and ATR72 airplanes. Accomplishing the revision of the existing maintenance or inspection program required by paragraph (j) of this AD terminates the requirements of AD 2020-26-17 for Model ATR72 airplanes.

Costs of Compliance

The FAA estimates that this AD affects 41 airplanes of U.S. registry. The FAA estimates the following costs to comply with this AD:

The FAA has determined that revising the existing 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. 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 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

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 that this AD:

- (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 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:

- a. Removing Airworthiness Directive (AD) 2023-03-09, Amendment 39-22334 ([88 FR 12139](#), February 27, 2023); and
- b. Adding the following new AD:

2024-24-06 ATR-GIE Avions de Transport Régional: Amendment 39-22896; Docket No. FAA-2024-2128; Project Identifier MCAI-2024-00136-T.

(a) Effective Date

This airworthiness directive (AD) is effective January 13, 2025.

(b) Affected ADs

(1) This AD replaces AD 2023-03-09, Amendment 39-22334 ([88 FR 12139](#), February 27, 2023) (AD 2023-03-09).

(2) This AD affects AD 2020-26-17, Amendment 39-21372 ([85 FR 81795](#), December 17, 2020) (AD 2020-26-17).

(c) Applicability

This AD applies to ATR-GIE Avions de Transport Régional Model ATR72-101, -102, -201, -202, -211, -212, and -212A airplanes, certificated in any category, with an original airworthiness certificate or original export certificate of airworthiness issued on or before October 16, 2023.

(d) Subject

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

(e) Unsafe Condition

This AD was prompted by a determination that new or more restrictive airworthiness limitations are necessary. The FAA is issuing this AD to address fatigue cracking and damage in principal structural elements. The unsafe condition, if not addressed, could result in reduced structural integrity of the airplane.

(f) Compliance

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

(g) Retained Revision of the Existing Maintenance or Inspection Program, With No Changes

This paragraph restates the requirements of paragraph (j) of AD 2023-03-09, with no changes. For airplanes with an original airworthiness certificate or original export certificate of airworthiness issued on or before September 21, 2022: Comply with all required actions and compliance times specified in, and in accordance with, European Union Aviation Safety Agency (EASA) AD 2022-0201, dated September 26, 2022 (EASA AD 2022-0201). Accomplishing the revision of the existing maintenance or inspection program required by paragraph (j) of this AD terminates the requirements of this paragraph.

(h) Retained Exceptions to EASA AD 2022-0201, With No Changes

This paragraph restates the exceptions specified in paragraph (k) of AD 2023-03-09, with no changes.

- (1) Where EASA AD 2022-0201 refers to its effective date, this AD requires using April 3, 2023 (the effective date of AD 2023-03-09).
- (2) The requirements specified in paragraphs (1) and (2) of EASA AD 2022-0201 do not apply to this AD.
- (3) Paragraph (3) of EASA AD 2022-0201 specifies revising “the approved AMP” within 12 months after its effective date, but this AD requires revising the existing maintenance or inspection program, as applicable, within 90 days after April 3, 2023 (the effective date of AD 2023-03-09).
- (4) The initial compliance time for doing the tasks specified in paragraph (3) of EASA AD 2022-0201 is at the applicable “limitations” and “associated thresholds” as incorporated by the requirements of paragraph (3) of EASA AD 2022-0201, or within 90 days after April 3, 2023 (the effective date of AD 2023-03-09), whichever occurs later.
- (5) The provisions specified in paragraphs (4) and (5) of EASA AD 2022-0201 do not apply to this AD.
- (6) The “Remarks” section of EASA AD 2022-0201 does not apply to this AD.

(i) Retained Provisions for Alternative Actions, With a New Exception

This paragraph restates the requirements of paragraph (l) of AD 2023-03-09, with a new exception. Except as required by paragraph (j) of this AD, after the existing maintenance or inspection program has been revised as required by paragraph (g) of this AD, no alternative actions (*e.g.*, inspections) and intervals are allowed unless they are approved as specified in the provisions of the “Ref. Publications” section of EASA AD 2022-0201.

(j) New Revision of the Existing Maintenance or Inspection Program

Except as specified in paragraph (k) of this AD: Comply with all required actions and compliance times specified in, and in accordance with, EASA AD 2024-0053, dated February 23, 2024 (EASA AD 2024-0053). Accomplishing the revision of the existing maintenance or inspection program required by this paragraph terminates the requirements of paragraph (g) of this AD.

(k) Exceptions to EASA AD 2024-0053

- (1) This AD does not adopt the requirements specified in paragraphs (1) and (2) of EASA AD 2024-0053.
- (2) Paragraph (3) of EASA AD 2024-0053 specifies revising “the approved AMP,” within 12 months after its effective date, but this AD requires revising the existing maintenance or inspection program, as applicable, 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 2024-0053 is at the applicable “limitations” and “associated thresholds” as incorporated by the requirements of paragraph (3) of EASA AD 2024-0053, 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 2024-0053 do not apply to this AD.

(5) This AD does not adopt the “Remarks” section of EASA AD 2024-0053.

(l) New Provisions for Alternative Actions and Intervals

After the existing maintenance or inspection program has been revised as required by paragraph (j) of this AD, no alternative actions (e.g., inspections)and intervals are allowed unless they are approved as specified in the provisions of the “Ref. Publications” section of EASA AD 2024-0053.

(m) Terminating Action for AD 2020-26-17

Accomplishing the revision of the existing maintenance or inspection program required by paragraph (j) of this AD terminates the requirements of AD 2020-26-17, for Model ATR72 airplanes only.

(n) Additional AD Provisions

The following provisions also apply to this AD:

(1) *Alternative Methods of Compliance (AMOCs)*: The Manager, International Validation 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 responsible Flight Standards Office, as appropriate. If sending information directly to the manager of the International Validation Branch, mail it to the address identified in paragraph (o) of this AD. Information may be emailed to: AMOC@faa.gov.

(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 Validation Branch, FAA; or EASA; or ATR-GIE Avions de Transport Régional's EASA Design Organization Approval (DOA). If approved by the DOA, the approval must include the DOA-authorized signature.

(o) Additional Information

For more information about this AD, contact Shahram Daneshmandi, Aviation Safety Engineer, FAA, 1600 Stewart Avenue, Suite 410, Westbury, NY 11590; telephone 206-231-3220; email: shahram.daneshmandi@faa.gov.

(p) Material Incorporated by Reference

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

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

(3) The following material was approved for IBR on January 13, 2025.

(i) European Union Aviation Safety Agency (EASA) AD 2024-0053, dated February 23, 2024.

(ii) [Reserved]

(4) The following material was approved for IBR on April 3, 2023 ([88 FR 12139](#), February 27, 2023).

(i) EASA AD 2022-0201, dated September 26, 2022.

(ii) [Reserved]

(5) For EASA AD 2022-0201 and EASA AD 2024-0053, contact EASA, Konrad-Adenauer-Ufer 3, 50668 Cologne, Germany; telephone +49 221 8999 000; email ADs@easa.europa.eu; website easa.europa.eu. You may find these EASA ADs on the EASA website at ad.easa.europa.eu.

(6) You may view this material at the FAA, Airworthiness Products Section, Operational Safety Branch, 2200 South 216th St., Des Moines, WA. For information on the availability of this material at the FAA, call 206-231-3195.

(7) You may view this material at the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA). For information on the availability of this material at NARA, visit www.archives.gov/federal-register/cfr/ibr-locationsoremailfr.inspection@nara.gov.

Issued on November 21, 2024.

Victor Wicklund,

Deputy Director, Compliance & Airworthiness Division, Aircraft Certification Service.

[[FR Doc. 2024-28788](#) Filed 12-6-24; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-13-P