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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Aviation Administration

14 CFR Part 39

[Docket No. FAA-2010-1296; Directorate Identifier 2010-CE-063-AD; Amendment 39-16625; AD 2011-06-01]

RIN 2120-AA64

Airworthiness Directives; APEX Aircraft Model CAP 10 B Airplanes

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

ACTION: Final rule.

SUMMARY: We are adopting a new airworthiness directive (AD) for the products listed above. 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:

A fatal accident occurred to a CAP 10C, in which the pilot lost control of the aeroplane.

The following investigation has revealed that the probable cause of the accident was the improper locking of a turnbuckle (locking clip missing) of the flight control cables, and the subsequent inadvertent release of the pitchup control cable from the turnbuckle.

We are issuing this AD to require actions to correct the unsafe condition on these products.

DATES: This AD becomes effective April 13, 2011.

ADDRESSES: You may examine the AD docket on the Internet at <http://www.regulations.gov> 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 FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Sarjapur Nagarajan, Aerospace Engineer, FAA, Small Airplane Directorate, 901 Locust, Room 301, Kansas City, Missouri 64106; telephone: (816) 329-4145; fax: (816) 329-4090.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Discussion

We issued a notice of proposed rulemaking (NPRM) to amend 14 CFR part 39 to include an AD that would apply to the specified products. That NPRM was published in the Federal Register on December 30, 2010 (75 FR 82335). That NPRM proposed to correct an unsafe condition for the specified products. The MCAI states:

A fatal accident occurred to a CAP 10C, in which the pilot lost control of the aeroplane.

The following investigation has revealed that the probable cause of the accident was the improper locking of a turnbuckle (locking clip missing) of the flight control cables, and the subsequent inadvertent release of the pitchup control cable from the turnbuckle.

For the above described reasons, this AD requires repetitive inspections to verify the correct installation of the turnbuckles of the flight control cables and, if foreseen by the applicable design configuration of the turnbuckles and found to be missing, to restore the locking clip and the safety wire.

Comments

We gave the public the opportunity to participate in developing this AD. We received no comments on the NPRM or on the determination of the cost to the public.

Conclusion

We reviewed the available data and determined that air safety and the public interest require adopting the AD as proposed.

Differences Between This AD and the MCAI or Service Information

We have reviewed the MCAI and related service information and, in general, agree with their substance. But we might have found it necessary to use different words from those in the MCAI to ensure the AD is clear for U.S. operators and is enforceable. In making these changes, we do not intend to differ substantively from the information provided in the MCAI and related service information.

We might also have required different actions in this AD from those in the MCAI in order to follow FAA policies. Any such differences are highlighted in a NOTE within the AD.

Costs of Compliance

We estimate that this AD will affect 28 products of U.S. registry. We also estimate that it will take about 3 work-hours per product to comply with the basic requirements of this AD. The average labor rate is \$85 per work-hour. Required parts will cost about \$100 per product.

Based on these figures, we estimate the cost of this AD to the U.S. operators to be \$9,940 or \$355 per product.

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 DOT Regulatory Policies and Procedures (44 FR 11034, February 26, 1979); 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.

We prepared a regulatory evaluation of the estimated costs to comply with this AD and placed it in the AD Docket.

Examining the AD Docket

You may examine the AD docket on the Internet at <http://www.regulations.gov>; 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:



2011-06-01 APEX Aircraft: Amendment 39-16625; Docket No. FAA-2010-1296; Directorate Identifier 2010-CE-063-AD.

Effective Date

- (a) This airworthiness directive (AD) becomes effective April 13, 2011.

Affected ADs

- (b) None.

Applicability

(c) This AD applies to APEX Aircraft Model CAP10 B and CAP10 B airplanes with Major Change 000302 (commercial name CAP10C), all serial numbers, certificated in any category.

Subject

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

Reason

- (e) The mandatory continuing airworthiness information (MCAI) states:

A fatal accident occurred to a CAP 10C, in which the pilot lost control of the aeroplane.

The following investigation has revealed that the probable cause of the accident was the improper locking of a turnbuckle (locking clip missing) of the flight control cables, and the subsequent inadvertent release of the pitchup control cable from the turnbuckle.

For the above described reasons, this AD requires repetitive inspections to verify the correct installation of the turnbuckles of the flight control cables and, if foreseen by the applicable design configuration of the turnbuckles and found to be missing, to restore the locking clip and the safety wire.

Actions and Compliance

- (f) Unless already done, do the following actions:

- (1) Within the next 2 months after April 13, 2011 (the effective date of this AD):

- (i) If the turnbuckles are designed to be locked with locking clips and safety wire, verify that the locking clips are properly installed in the corresponding groove, that the safety wire of a minimum diameter of 0.8 millimeter (mm) is correctly installed, and that there is no damage to the whole turnbuckle installation.

(ii) For all other designs of turnbuckles, verify the correct installation of the safety locking devices.

(iii) If any discrepancy is found during the inspection required by paragraph (f)(1)(i) or (f)(1)(ii) of this AD, before further flight, restore the correct turnbuckle installation in accordance with standard maintenance practice.

(2) Repeat the inspection required by paragraph (f)(1)(i) or (f)(1)(ii) of this AD, as applicable to the turnbuckles design, and the associated corrective actions required by paragraph (f)(1)(iii) of this AD at intervals not to exceed 110 hours time-in-service or 13 months since the last inspection, whichever occurs first.

FAA AD Differences

Note: This AD differs from the MCAI and/or service information as follows: No differences.

Other FAA AD Provisions

(g) 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: Sarjapur Nagarajan, Aerospace Engineer, FAA, Small Airplane Directorate, 901 Locust, Room 301, Kansas City, Missouri 64106; telephone: (816) 329-4145; fax: (816) 329-4090. 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.

(3) Reporting Requirements: For any reporting requirement in this AD, a Federal agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, nor shall a person be subject to a penalty for failure to comply with a collection of information subject to the requirements of the Paperwork Reduction Act unless that collection of information displays a current valid OMB Control Number. The OMB Control Number for this information collection is 2120-0056. Public reporting for this collection of information is estimated to be approximately 5 minutes per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, completing and reviewing the collection of information. All responses to this collection of information are mandatory. Comments concerning the accuracy of this burden and suggestions for reducing the burden should be directed to the FAA at: 800 Independence Ave., SW., Washington, DC 20591, Attn: Information Collection Clearance Officer, AES-200.

Related Information

(h) Refer to MCAI European Aviation Safety Agency (EASA) AD No.: 2010-0233, dated November 26, 2010, for related information.

Issued in Kansas City, Missouri, on February 28, 2011.
John Colomy,
Acting Manager, Small Airplane Directorate,
Aircraft Certification Service.