

Regulatory Guide 1.174, "An Approach for Using PRA in Risk-Informed Decisions on Plant-Specific Changes to the Licensing Basis," and the NRC's Strategic Plan. Consistent with the high-level at which the guidance described above has been articulated, specific factors which need to be addressed in each case (such as defense in depth and treatment of uncertainties) would depend on the particular regulatory issues involved.

#### Additional Information

The staff's proposed high-level guidelines reflect a measure of specificity designed to stimulate reactions, concerns, and views on the more detailed consideration or underpinnings of a set of high-level guidelines. In no way should this specificity be construed as an indication that the NRC has established any firm position regarding these guidelines. The NRC invites advice and recommendations from all interested persons on all aspects of its proposal. In addition, comments and supporting reasons are particularly requested in the following areas:

- (1) Clarity and specificity of the guidelines;
  - a. Are the proposed guidelines appropriate and clear?
  - b. Are there additional guidelines that would improve clarity and specificity?
  - c. How does the "high-level" nature of the guidelines affect the clarity and specificity of the guidelines?
- (2) Implementation of the guidelines;
  - a. What guidelines, if any, are mandatory for an activity to qualify as a performance-based initiative?
  - b. What is the best way to implement these guidelines?
  - c. How should the Backfit Rule apply to the implementation of performance-based approaches?
  - d. Should these guidelines be applied to all types of activity, e.g., should they be applied to petitions for rulemaking?
  - e. Should these guidelines only be applied to new regulatory initiatives?
  - f. Will these guidelines be effective in determining whether we can make a regulatory initiative more performance-based? The staff proposes that these guidelines be added to our Management Directives such that whenever the NRC is involved in a rulemaking, or changing a regulatory guide or branch technical position, etc., we will consider the option of making it more performance-based.
- (3) Establishment of objective performance criteria;
  - a. In moving to performance-based requirements, should the current level of conservatism be maintained or

should introduction of more realism be attempted?

b. What level of conservatism (safety margin) needs to be built into a performance criterion to avoid facing an immediate safety concern if the criterion is not met?

c. Recognizing that performance criteria can be set at different levels in a hierarchy (e.g., component, train, system, release, dose), on what basis is an appropriate level in the hierarchy selected for setting performance-based requirements, and what is the appropriate level of conservatism for each tier in the hierarchy?

d. Who would be responsible for proposing and justifying the acceptance limits and adequacy of objective criteria?

e. What are examples of performance-based objectives that are not amenable to risk analyses such as PRA or Integrated Safety Assessment?

f. In the context of risk-informed regulation, to what extent should performance criteria account for potential risk from beyond-design-basis accidents (i.e., severe accidents)?

(4) Identification and use of measurable (or calculable) parameters;

a. How and by whom are performance parameters to be determined?

b. How do you decide what a relevant performance parameter is?

c. How much uncertainty can be tolerated in the measurable or calculated parameters?

(5) Pilot projects;

a. Would undertaking pilot projects in the reactor, materials, and waste arenas provide beneficial experience before finalizing the guidelines?

b. What should be the relationship between any such pilot projects and those being implemented to risk-inform the regulations?

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 14th day of January, 2000.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

**Charles E. Rossi,**

*Director Division of Systems Analysis and Regulatory Effectiveness, Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research.*

[FR Doc. 00-1572 Filed 1-21-00; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

### Federal Aviation Administration

#### 14 CFR Part 39

[Docket No. 99-NM-360-AD]

RIN 2120-AA64

#### Airworthiness Directives; Israel Aircraft Industries, Ltd., Model 1125 Westwind Astra and Astra SPX Series 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 Israel Aircraft Industries, Ltd., Model 1125 Westwind Astra and Astra SPX series airplanes. This proposal would require replacement of the existing pneumatic de-icing boot pressure indicator switch with a newly designed switch. This proposal is prompted by an occurrence on a similar airplane model in which the pneumatic de-icing boot indication light may have provided the flightcrew with misleading information as to the proper functioning of the de-icing boots. The actions specified by the proposed AD are intended to prevent ice accumulation on the airplane leading edges, which could result in reduced controllability of the airplane.

**DATES:** Comments must be received by February 23, 2000.

**ADDRESSES:** Submit comments in triplicate to the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), Transport Airplane Directorate, ANM-114, Attention: Rules Docket No. 99-NM-360-AD, 1601 Lind Avenue, SW., Renton, Washington 98055-4056. Comments may be inspected at this location between 9:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays.

Information concerning this proposal may be examined at the FAA, Transport Airplane Directorate, 1601 Lind Avenue, SW., Renton, Washington.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Norman B. Martenson, Manager, International Branch, ANM-116, FAA, Transport Airplane Directorate, 1601 Lind Avenue, SW., Renton, Washington 98055-4056; telephone (425) 227-2110; 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 notice 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 notice must submit a self-addressed, stamped postcard on which the following statement is made: "Comments to Docket Number 99-NM-360-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. 99-NM-360-AD, 1601 Lind Avenue, SW., Renton, Washington 98055-4056.

#### Discussion

On December 26, 1989, a British Aerospace Jetstream Model BA-3101 series airplane impacted the ground approximately 400 feet short of the runway while executing an instrument landing system (ILS) approach. The accident occurred at the Tri-Cities Airport, Pasco, Washington. The National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) determined that the probable cause of the accident was the flightcrew's decision to continue an unstabilized ILS approach that led to a stall, most likely of the horizontal stabilizer, and loss of control at low altitude. Contributing to the stall and loss of control was the accumulation of ice on the leading edge of the wing and the horizontal stabilizer, which degraded the aerodynamic performance of the airplane.

One result of the NTSB investigation was the determination that a flight deck wing de-icing light illuminated at a lower pressure than the pressure required to fully inflate the de-icing boots.

Based on an NTSB Safety Recommendation, the FAA reviewed the pneumatic de-icing boot system designs for airplanes operated under parts 121 and 135 of the Federal Aviation Regulations to ensure that the pneumatic pressure threshold at which each de-icing boot indication light is designed to illuminate is sufficient pressure for effective operation of the pneumatic de-icing boots. The FAA has determined that the pneumatic de-icing boot pressure indicator switch located on the flight deck of Model 1125 Westwind Astra and Astra SPX series airplanes may allow the flight deck indication light to illuminate at a lower pressure [13 pounds per square inch gage (psig)] than the pressure required to fully inflate the de-icing boots (15 psig). This condition, if not corrected, could result in ice accumulation on the airplane leading edges, which could result in reduced controllability of the airplane.

#### U.S. Type Certification of the Airplane

This airplane model is manufactured in Israel 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. The FAA has 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 that the existing pneumatic de-icing boot pressure indicator switch be replaced with a switch that activates the indicator light at 15 psig. The action would be required to be accomplished in accordance with a method approved by the FAA.

#### Cost Impact

The FAA estimates that 59 airplanes of U.S. registry would be affected by this proposed AD. Since the manufacturer has not yet developed a specific modification commensurate with the requirements of this proposal, the FAA is unable at this time to provide specific information as to the number of work hours or cost of parts that would be required to accomplish the proposed modification. As indicated earlier in this preamble, the FAA specifically invites the submission of comments and

other data regarding the economic aspect of this proposal.

#### 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:

**Israel Aircraft Industries, LTD.:** Docket 99-NM-360-AD.

*Applicability:* All Model 1125 Westwind Astra and Astra SPX series airplanes, certificated in any category.

**Note 1:** This AD applies to each airplane 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 airplanes 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:** Required as indicated, unless accomplished previously.

To prevent ice accumulation on the airplane leading edges, which could result in reduced controllability of the airplane, accomplish the following:

#### Modification

(a) Within 1 year after the effective date of this AD, replace the pneumatic de-icing boot pressure indicator switch with a switch that activates the flight deck indicator light at 15 pounds per square inch gage, in accordance with a method approved by the Manager, International Branch, ANM-116, FAA, Transport Airplane Directorate.

#### 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, International Branch, ANM-116. Operators shall submit their requests through an appropriate FAA Principal Maintenance Inspector, who may add comments and then send it to the Manager, International Branch, ANM-116.

**Note 2:** Information concerning the existence of approved alternative methods of compliance with this AD, if any, may be obtained from the International Branch, ANM-116.

#### Special Flight Permits

(c) Special flight permits may be issued in accordance with sections 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 accomplished.

Issued in Renton, Washington, on January 18, 2000.

**Donald L. Riggins,**

*Acting Manager, Transport Airplane Directorate, Aircraft Certification Service.*

[FR Doc. 00-1598 Filed 1-21-00; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

### Federal Aviation Administration

#### 14 CFR Part 39

[Docket No. 99-NM-13-AD]

RIN 2120-AA64

#### Airworthiness Directives; Raytheon Model BAe 125-800A and BAe 125-800B, Model Hawker 800, and Model Hawker 800XP Series Airplanes

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

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

**SUMMARY:** This document proposes the superseding of an existing airworthiness directive (AD), applicable to certain Raytheon Model BAe 125-800A, Model Hawker 800, and Model Hawker 800XP series airplanes, that currently requires the filling of two tooling holes on the firewalls of the left and right engine pylons with firewall sealant. This action would require the sealing of all unused (open) tooling holes on the firewalls of the left and right engine pylons, and would expand the applicability to include additional airplanes. This proposal is prompted by reports of additional unused (open) tooling holes, found at locations other than those currently addressed. The actions specified by the proposed AD are intended to prevent an engine fire from moving to the fuselage and to the lines that carry flammable fluid that are located inboard of the firewall.

**DATES:** Comments must be received by February 23, 2000.

**ADDRESSES:** Submit comments in triplicate to the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), Transport Airplane Directorate, ANM-114, Attention: Rules Docket No. 99-NM-13-AD, 1601 Lind Avenue, SW., Renton, Washington 98055-4056. Comments may be inspected at this location between 9:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays.

The service information referenced in the proposed rule may be obtained from Raytheon Aircraft Company, Manager Service Engineering, Hawker Customer Support Department, P.O. Box 85, Wichita, Kansas, 67201-0085. This information may be examined at the FAA, Transport Airplane Directorate, 1601 Lind Avenue, SW., Renton, Washington; or at the FAA, Small Airplane Directorate, Wichita Aircraft Certification Office, 1801 Airport Road, Room 100, Mid-Continent Airport, Wichita, Kansas.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Jeffrey A. Pretz, Aerospace Engineer, Systems and Propulsion Branch, ACE-116W, FAA, Small Airplane Directorate, Wichita Aircraft Certification Office, 1801 Airport Road, Room 100, Mid-Continent Airport, Wichita, Kansas 67209; telephone (316) 946-4153; fax (316) 946-4407.

#### 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 notice 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.

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#### 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. 99-NM-13-AD, 1601 Lind Avenue, SW., Renton, Washington 98055-4056.

#### Discussion

On November 22, 1996, the FAA issued AD 96-24-16, amendment 39-9840 (61 FR 66878, December 19, 1996), applicable to certain Raytheon Model BAe 125-800A, Model Hawker 800, and Model Hawker 800XP series airplanes, to require the filling of two tooling holes on the firewalls of the left and right engine pylons with firewall sealant. That action was prompted by notification from the manufacturer that these holes were not sealed during production. The requirements of that AD are intended to prevent an engine fire from moving to the fuselage and to the lines that carry flammable fluid that are located inboard of the firewall.

#### Actions Since Issuance of Previous Rule

Since the issuance of that AD, reports have been received of airplanes with additional unused tooling holes, at locations other than those addressed in AD 96-24-16, on the left and right engine pylon firewalls, which may permit the passage of flames to the