

2010-12-04 PILATUS Aircraft Ltd.: Amendment 39-16325; Docket No. FAA-2010-0250; Directorate Identifier 2010-CE-011-AD.

Effective Date

(a) This airworthiness directive (AD) becomes effective July 13, 2010.

Affected ADs

(b) None.

Applicability

(c) This AD applies to Model PC-7 airplanes, all serial numbers, certificated in any category.

Subject

(d) Air Transport Association of America (ATA) Code 53: Fuselage.

Reason

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

This Airworthiness Directive (AD) is prompted due to the discovery of corrosion at the bonding strap connections on the left and right lower longerons between fuselage frames 1 and 1A. The possibility of corrosion is increased because of the high electrical current flow between the tinned copper terminal lug of the bonding strap and the aluminum longeron.

Such a condition, if left uncorrected, could lead to failure of the longeron and will prejudice the structural integrity of the aircraft. In order to correct and control the situation, this AD requires a one time inspection of the longeron structure and the terminal lugs of the bonding straps for signs of corrosion.

For left and right lower longerons where corrosion is found during the inspection, the MCAI also requires repair of any longeron where corrosion is found.

Actions and Compliance

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

(1) Within the next 120 days after July 13, 2010 (the effective date of this AD), perform a visual inspection of the forward bonding points and the terminal lugs on the left and right lower longerons between fuselage frames 1 and 1A for signs of corrosion. Do the inspection following paragraphs 3.C.(1), (2), and (3) of PILATUS PC- 7 Service Bulletin No. 53-007, dated January 5, 2010.

(2) If any signs of corrosion are found during the inspection required in paragraph (f)(1) of this AD, prior to further flight, perform corrective actions in accordance with the Accomplishment Instructions in paragraph 3.D of PILATUS PC-7 SB No. 53-007, dated January 5, 2010. If the corrosion damage is

out of limits, record the values; apply to PILATUS for a repair scheme at: PILATUS AIRCRAFT LTD., Customer Service Manager, CH-6371 STANS, Switzerland; telephone: +41 (0) 41 619 62 08; fax: +41 (0) 41 619 73 11; and implement the repair scheme.

Note 1: The Federal Office of Civil Aviation (FOCA), which is the airworthiness authority for Switzerland, will work with PILATUS in reviewing the results of the initial inspection as specified in PILATUS PC-7 Service Bulletin No. 53-007, dated January 5, 2010. From this, a repetitive inspection requirement or other action may be established. The FAA will evaluate any such action and determine whether further rulemaking is necessary.

FAA AD Differences

Note 2: 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: Doug Rudolph, Aerospace Engineer, FAA, Small Airplane Directorate, 901 Locust, Room 301, Kansas City, Missouri 64106; telephone: (816) 329-4059; 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, under the provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act (44 U.S.C. 3501 et seq.), the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) has approved the information collection requirements and has assigned OMB Control Number 2120-0056.

Related Information

(h) Refer to MCAI FOCA AD HB-2010-001, dated February 12, 2010; and PILATUS PC-7 Service Bulletin No. 53-007, dated January 5, 2010, for related information.

Material Incorporated by Reference

(i) You must use PILATUS PC-7 Service Bulletin No. 53-007, dated January 5, 2010, to do the actions required by this AD, unless the AD specifies otherwise.

(1) The Director of the Federal Register approved the incorporation by reference of this service information under 5 U.S.C. 552(a) and 1 CFR part 51.

(2) For service information identified in this AD, contact PILATUS AIRCRAFT LTD., Customer Service Manager, CH-6371 STANS, Switzerland; telephone: +41 (0) 41 619 62 08; fax: +41 (0) 41 619 73 11; Internet: <http://www.pilatus-aircraft.com>.

(3) You may review copies of the service information incorporated by reference for this AD at the FAA, Central Region, Office of the Regional Counsel, 901 Locust, Kansas City, Missouri 64106. For information on the availability of this material at the Central Region, call (816) 329-3768.

(4) You may also review copies of the service information incorporated by reference for this AD at the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA). For information on the availability of this material at NARA, call (202) 741-6030, or go to: http://www.archives.gov/federal_register/code_of_federal_regulations/ibr_locations.html.