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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Aviation Administration

14 CFR Part 39

[Docket No. FAA-2020-1022; Project Identifier AD-2020-01101-T; Amendment 39-21995; AD 2022-07-07]

RIN 2120-AA64

Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes

AGENCY: Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), DOT.

ACTION: Final rule.

SUMMARY: The FAA is adopting a new airworthiness directive (AD) for certain The Boeing Company Model 757-200, -200CB, and -300 series airplanes. This AD was prompted by a report indicating the passenger service units (PSUs) and life vest panels became separated from their attachments during several survivable accident sequences. This AD requires installing lanyard assemblies on the PSUs, and, for certain airplanes, on the life vest panels and video panels as applicable. The FAA is issuing this AD to address the unsafe condition on these products.

DATES: This AD is effective May 26, 2022.

The Director of the Federal Register approved the incorporation by reference of a certain publication listed in this AD as of May 26, 2022.

ADDRESSES: For service information identified in this final rule, contact Boeing Commercial Airplanes, Attention: Contractual & Data Services (C&DS), 2600 Westminister Blvd., MC 110-SK57, Seal Beach, CA 90740-5600; phone: 562-797-1717; internet: <https://www.myboeingfleet.com>. You may view this service information 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 <https://www.regulations.gov> by searching for and locating Docket No. FAA-2020-1022.

Examining the AD Docket

You may examine the AD docket at <https://www.regulations.gov> by searching for and locating Docket No. FAA-2020-1022; 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, 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.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Tony Koung, Aerospace Engineer, Cabin Safety and Environmental Systems Section, FAA, Seattle ACO Branch, 2200 South 216th St., Des Moines, WA 98198; phone and fax: 206-231-3985; email: tony.koung@faa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

The FAA issued a notice of proposed rulemaking (NPRM) to amend 14 CFR part 39 by adding an AD that would apply to certain The Boeing Company Model 757-200, -200CB, and -300 series airplanes. The NPRM published in the Federal Register on December 30, 2020 (85 FR 86515). The NPRM was prompted by a report indicating that the PSUs and life vest panels became separated from their attachments during several survivable accident sequences. In the NPRM, the FAA proposed to require installing lanyard assemblies on the PSUs, and, for certain airplanes, on the life vest panels and video panels as applicable. The FAA is issuing this AD to address the PSUs, life vest panels, and video panels becoming detached and falling into the cabin, which could lead to passenger injuries and impede egress during an evacuation.

The FAA issued a supplemental notice of proposed rulemaking (SNPRM) to amend 14 CFR part 39 by adding an AD that would apply to certain The Boeing Company Model 757-200, -200CB, and -300 series airplanes. The SNPRM published in the Federal Register on November 17, 2021 (86 FR 64089). The SNPRM was prompted by a report indicating that the PSUs and life vest panels became separated from their attachments during several survivable accident sequences and a determination that additional airplanes are also subject to the identified unsafe condition. The SNPRM proposed to require installing lanyard assemblies on the PSUs, and, for certain airplanes, on the life vest panels and video panels as applicable and to expand the applicability to include those additional airplanes. The FAA is issuing this AD to address the PSUs, life vest panels, and video panels becoming detached and falling into the cabin, which could lead to passenger injuries and impede egress during an evacuation.

Discussion of Final Airworthiness Directive

Comments

The FAA received comments from the Air Line Pilots Association, International (ALPA), and United Airlines who supported the SNPRM without change.

The FAA received additional comments from Aviation Partners Boeing and Boeing. The following presents the comments received on the SNPRM and the FAA's response to each comment.

Effect of Winglets on Accomplishment of the Proposed Actions

Aviation Partners Boeing stated that the installation of winglets per Supplemental Type Certificate (STC) ST01518SE does not affect the accomplishment of the manufacturer's service instructions.

The FAA agrees with the commenter that STC ST01518SE does not affect the accomplishment of the manufacturer's service instructions. Therefore, the installation of STC ST01518SE does not affect the ability to accomplish the actions required by this AD. The FAA has not changed this AD in this regard.

Request To Change Certain Language

Boeing asked that the FAA replace the word “would” with “could potentially” in the FAA clarification “a PSU panel that detached and fell below BWL 265.7 would cause injury to passengers” as specified in the Clarification for PSU Installation section of the SNPRM. Boeing stated that the passenger seat located below an attached PSU panel could be unoccupied or could be occupied by a person short in stature, and in those cases the PSU panel would not strike and cause injury to a passenger.

The FAA acknowledges and agrees with the commenter's request, because the proposed language provides clarity. However, the comment section in the SNPRM is not carried over into this final rule. Therefore, the FAA has not changed this AD in this regard.

Conclusion

The FAA reviewed the relevant data, considered any comments received, and determined that air safety requires adopting this AD as proposed. Except for minor editorial changes, and any other changes described previously, this AD is adopted as proposed in the SNPRM. None of the changes will increase the economic burden on any operator.

Related Service Information Under 1 CFR Part 51

The FAA reviewed Boeing Special Attention Requirements Bulletin 757-25-0315 RB, Revision 2, dated March 17, 2021. This service information specifies procedures for installing lanyard assemblies on the PSUs, life vest panels, and video panels, as applicable. This service information is reasonably available because the interested parties have access to it through their normal course of business or by the means identified in ADDRESSES.

Costs of Compliance

The FAA estimates that this AD affects 367 airplanes of U.S. registry. The FAA estimates the following costs to comply with this AD:

Estimated Costs for Required Actions				
Action	Labor cost	Parts cost	Cost per product	Cost on U.S. operators
Install Lanyard Assemblies	Up to 75 work-hours × \$85 per hour = Up to \$6,375	Up to \$45,750	Up to \$52,125	Up to \$19,129,875.

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 adding the following new airworthiness directive:



AIRWORTHINESS DIRECTIVE

www.faa.gov/aircraft/safety/alerts/
www.gpoaccess.gov/fr/advanced.html

2022-07-07 The Boeing Company: Amendment 39-21995; Docket No. FAA-2020-1022; Project Identifier AD-2020-01101-T.

(a) Effective Date

This airworthiness directive (AD) is effective May 26, 2022.

(b) Affected ADs

None.

(c) Applicability

This AD applies to The Boeing Company Model 757-200, -200CB, and -300 series airplanes, certificated in any category, as identified in Boeing Special Attention Requirements Bulletin 757-25-0315 RB, Revision 2, dated March 17, 2021.

(d) Subject

Air Transport Association (ATA) of America Code 25, Equipment/furnishings.

(e) Unsafe Condition

This AD was prompted by a report indicating the passenger service units (PSUs) and life vest panels became separated from their attachments during several survivable accident sequences. The FAA is issuing this AD to address the PSUs, life vest panels, and video panels becoming detached and falling into the cabin, which could lead to passenger injuries and impede egress during an evacuation.

(f) Compliance

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

(g) Required Actions

Except as specified by paragraph (h) of this AD: At the applicable times specified in the "Compliance" paragraph of Boeing Special Attention Requirements Bulletin 757-25-0315 RB, Revision 2, dated March 17, 2021, do all applicable actions identified in, and in accordance with, the Accomplishment Instructions of Boeing Special Attention Requirements Bulletin 757-25-0315 RB, Revision 2, dated March 17, 2021.

Note 1 to paragraph (g): Guidance for accomplishing the actions required by this AD can be found in Boeing Special Attention Service Bulletin 757-25-0315, Revision 2, dated March 17, 2021, which is referred to in Boeing Special Attention Requirements Bulletin 757-25-0315 RB, Revision 2, dated March 17, 2021.

(h) Exceptions to Service Information Specifications

(1) Where Boeing Special Attention Requirements Bulletin 757-25-0315 RB, Revision 2, dated March 17, 2021, uses the phrase “the Revision 2 date of Requirements Bulletin 757-25-0315 RB,” this AD requires using “the effective date of this AD.”

(2) The lanyard installation specified in paragraph (g) of this AD is not required on Model 757-200 airplanes modified per VT Mobile Aerospace Engineering (VT MAE) supplemental type certificates (STCs) ST03952AT and ST04242AT.

(i) Credit for Previous Actions

For airplanes identified in Boeing Special Attention Requirements Bulletin 757-25-0315 RB, Revision 1, dated May 20, 2020: This paragraph provides credit for the actions specified in paragraph (g) of this AD, if those actions were performed before the effective date of this AD using Boeing Special Attention Requirements Bulletin 757-25-0315 RB, Revision 1, dated May 20, 2020.

(j) Parts Installation Limitation

As of the applicable time specified in paragraph (j)(1) or (2) of this AD, no person may install on any airplane any PSU, life vest panel, or video panel without an updated lanyard assembly installed.

(1) For airplanes that have PSUs, life vest panels, or video panels without the updated lanyard assemblies installed as of the effective date of this AD: After modification of the airplane as required by paragraph (g) of this AD.

(2) For airplanes that do not have PSUs, life vest panels, or video panels without the updated lanyard assemblies installed as of the effective date of this AD: As of the effective date of this AD.

(k) Alternative Methods of Compliance (AMOCs)

(1) The Manager, Seattle ACO 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 local Flight Standards District Office, as appropriate. If sending information directly to the manager of the certification office, send it to the attention of the person identified in paragraph (l) of this AD. Information may be emailed to: 9-ANM-Seattle-ACO-AMOC-Requests@faa.gov.

(2) Before using any approved AMOC, notify your appropriate principal inspector, or lacking a principal inspector, the manager of the local flight standards district office/certificate holding district office.

(3) An AMOC that provides an acceptable level of safety may be used for any repair, modification, or alteration required by this AD if it is approved by The Boeing Company Organization Designation Authorization (ODA) that has been authorized by the Manager, Seattle ACO Branch, FAA, to make those findings. To be approved, the repair method, modification deviation, or alteration deviation must meet the certification basis of the airplane, and the approval must specifically refer to this AD.

(l) Related Information

For more information about this AD, contact Tony Koung, Aerospace Engineer, Cabin Safety and Environmental Systems Section, FAA, Seattle ACO Branch, 2200 South 216th St., Des Moines, WA 98198; phone and fax: 206-231-3985; email: tony.koung@faa.gov.

(m) Material Incorporated by Reference

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

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

(i) Boeing Special Attention Requirements Bulletin 757-25-0315 RB, Revision 2, dated March 17, 2021.

(ii) [Reserved]

(3) For service information identified in this AD, contact Boeing Commercial Airplanes, Attention: Contractual & Data Services (C&DS), 2600 Westminister Blvd., MC 110-SK57, Seal Beach, CA 90740-5600; phone: 562-797-1717; internet: <https://www.myboeingfleet.com>.

(4) You may view this service information 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.

(5) You may view this service information that is incorporated by reference at the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA). For information on the availability of this material at NARA, fr.inspection@nara.gov, or go to: <https://www.archives.gov/federal-register/cfr/ibr-locations.html>.

Issued on March 17, 2022.

Lance T. Gant,

Director, Compliance & Airworthiness Division, Aircraft Certification Service.

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