

[Federal Register: September 27, 2001 (Volume 66, Number 188)]  
[Rules and Regulations]  
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From the Federal Register Online via GPO Access [wais.access.gpo.gov]  
[DOCID:fr27se01-31]

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**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**

**Federal Aviation Administration**

**14 CFR Part 39**

**[Docket No. 2001-NM-299-AD; Amendment 39-12451; AD 2001-17-09 R1]**

**RIN 2120-AA64**

**Airworthiness Directives; McDonnell Douglas Model MD-11 Series Airplanes**

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

**ACTION:** Final rule; rescission.

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**SUMMARY:** This amendment rescinds Airworthiness Directive (AD) 2000-17-09, which is applicable to certain McDonnell Douglas Model MD-11 series airplanes. That AD requires an inspection of the upper avionics circuit breaker panel at the main observer's station to detect damage of the wires and to verify the correct routing of the wire bundles; corrective actions, if necessary; and installation of a new clamp, spacer, and sta-straps. The requirements of that AD were intended to prevent chafing in the upper avionics circuit breaker panel of the main observer's station, which could result in arcing and consequent smoke and/or fire in the cockpit. Since the issuance of that AD, the FAA has determined that the improper procedures specified by the service bulletin referenced in that AD could lead to wiring pre-load conditions and consequent wire damage, and arcing in the upper avionics circuit breaker panel. Such conditions could result in arcing and consequent smoke and/or fire in the cockpit.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** September 27, 2001.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Brett Portwood, Aerospace Engineer, Systems and Equipment Branch, ANM-130L, FAA, Los Angeles Aircraft Certification Office, 3960 Paramount Boulevard, Lakewood, California 90712-4137; telephone (562) 627-5350; fax (562) 627-5210.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** On August 14, 2001, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) issued AD 2001-17-09, amendment 39-12400 (66 FR 44041, August 22, 2001), applicable to certain McDonnell Douglas Model MD-11 series airplanes. That AD requires an inspection of the upper avionics circuit breaker panel at the main observer's station to detect damage of the wires and to verify the correct routing of the wire bundles; corrective actions, if necessary; and installation of a new clamp, spacer, and sta-straps. Chafing in the upper avionics circuit breaker panel of the main observer's station, could result in arcing and consequent smoke and/or fire in the cockpit.

## **Background**

During the comment period preceding the issuance of AD 2001-17-09, an operator submitted a letter stating its concern about the validity of the wiring procedures specified by Boeing Alert Service Bulletin MD11-24A179, Revision 01, dated October 31, 2000, which was cited in that AD. In response to that concern, the FAA consulted with the airplane manufacturer and was informed that the wiring procedures in the service bulletin were workable, and that the specified wire lengths were adequate. In light of this information, we determined that no change to the wire routing requirements of paragraph (a)(1)(ii) in the final rule was necessary.

## **Actions Since Issuance of Previous AD**

Following the issuance of AD 2001-17-09, the same operator contacted the FAA, informing us that the wiring procedures required by the AD per the Boeing service bulletin could cause wiring pre-load conditions. In response, we again consulted with Boeing to re-confirm their previous assessment. Boeing informed us that it had re-evaluated the procedures specified in the service bulletin and determined that, contrary to its original assessment, those procedures could actually cause wiring pre-load conditions and chafing.

In light of this information, the FAA has determined that the procedures in the previously referenced Boeing service bulletin could lead to wiring pre-load conditions and consequent wire damage, and arcing in the upper avionics circuit breaker panel. Such conditions could result in arcing and consequent smoke and/or fire in the cockpit.

## **FAA's Determination**

Since accomplishment of the requirements of AD 2001-17-09 could cause conditions that may contribute to the identified unsafe condition, the FAA has determined that it is necessary to rescind that AD to prevent operators from performing the procedures included in the previously referenced Boeing service bulletin, which was cited in that AD. The FAA may consider further rulemaking to correct the original unsafe condition that prompted AD 2001-17-09.

Since this action rescinds a requirement to perform improper procedures, it has no adverse economic impact and imposes no additional burden on any person. Therefore, notice and public procedures hereon are unnecessary and the rescission may be made effective upon publication in the Federal Register.

## **The Rescission**

Accordingly, pursuant to the authority delegated to me by the Administrator, the Federal Aviation Administration amends 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.

Sec. 39.13 [Amended]

2. Section 39.13 is amended by adding an AD which removes amendment 39-12400, to read as follows:

# AIRWORTHINESS DIRECTIVE



Aircraft Certification Service  
Washington, DC

U.S. Department  
of Transportation  
**Federal Aviation  
Administration**

*We post ADs on the internet at "av-info.faa.gov"*

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The following Airworthiness Directive issued by the Federal Aviation Administration in accordance with the provisions of Title 14 of the Code of Federal Regulations (14 CFR) part 39, applies to an aircraft model of which our records indicate you may be the registered owner. Airworthiness Directives affect aviation safety and are regulations which require immediate attention. You are cautioned that no person may operate an aircraft to which an Airworthiness Directive applies, except in accordance with the requirements of the Airworthiness Directive (reference 14 CFR part 39, subpart 39.3).

## RESCISSION

**2001-17-09 R1 McDonnell Douglas:** Amendment 39-12451. Docket No. 2001-NM-299-AD.  
Rescinds AD 2001-17-09, Amendment 39-12400.

*Applicability:* Model MD-11 series airplanes, as listed in Boeing Alert Service Bulletin MD11-24A179, Revision 01, dated October 31, 2000; certificated in any category.

This rescission is effective September 27, 2001.

Issued in Renton, Washington, on September 25, 2001.

**Vi L. Lipski,**

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

[FR Doc. 01-24456 Filed 9-26-01; 11:10 am]

**BILLING CODE 4910-13-U**