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## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

### Federal Aviation Administration

#### 14 CFR Part 39

[Docket No. 2002-NM-250-AD; Amendment 39-12932; AD 2002-22-07]

RIN 2120-AA64

#### Airworthiness Directives; Boeing Model 767 Series Airplanes

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

**ACTION:** Final rule; request for comments.

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**SUMMARY:** This amendment supersedes an existing airworthiness directive (AD), applicable to certain Boeing Model 767 series airplanes, that currently requires a one-time inspection for missing bolts on the inboard and outboard support of the inboard main flap, and follow-on inspections and corrective actions, if necessary. This amendment adds an inspection that was inadvertently omitted from the existing AD. The actions specified in this AD are intended to detect missing, loose, or cracked bolts on the supports of the inboard main flap and prevent loss of the inboard main flap, which could result in loss of control of the airplane. This action is intended to address the identified unsafe condition.

**DATES:** Effective November 14, 2002.

The incorporation by reference, as listed in the regulations, was approved previously by the Director of the Federal Register as of August 27, 2002 (67 FR 52401, August 12, 2002).

Comments for inclusion in the Rules Docket must be received on or before December 30, 2002.

**ADDRESSES:** Submit comments in triplicate to the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), Transport Airplane Directorate, ANM-114, Attention: Rules Docket No. 2002-NM-250-AD, 1601 Lind Avenue, SW., Renton, Washington 98055-4056. Comments may be inspected at this location between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays. Comments may be submitted via fax to (425) 227-1232. Comments may also be sent via the Internet using the following address: [9-anm-iarcomment@faa.gov](mailto:9-anm-iarcomment@faa.gov). Comments sent via fax or the Internet must contain "Docket No. 2002-NM-250-AD" in the subject line and need not be submitted in triplicate. Comments sent via the Internet as attached electronic files must be formatted in Microsoft Word 97 for Windows or ASCII text.

The service information referenced in this AD may be obtained from Boeing Commercial Airplane Group, P.O. Box 3707, Seattle, Washington 98124-2207. This information may be examined at the FAA, Transport Airplane Directorate, 1601 Lind Avenue, SW., Renton, Washington; or at the Office of the Federal Register, 800 North Capitol Street, NW., suite 700, Washington, DC.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Suzanne Masterson, Aerospace Engineer, Airframe Branch, ANM-120S, FAA, Seattle Aircraft Certification Office, 1601 Lind Avenue, SW., Renton, Washington 98055-4056; telephone (425) 227-2772; fax (425) 227-1181.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** On August 1, 2002, the FAA issued AD 2002-16-05, amendment 39-12844 (67 FR 52401, August 12, 2002), applicable to certain Boeing Model 767 series airplanes, to require a one-time inspection for missing bolts on the inboard and outboard support of the inboard main flap, and follow-on inspections and corrective actions, if necessary. That action was prompted by a report indicating that an operator found one missing bolt and two loose bolts out of four bolts at the aft attachment locations on the outboard support of the inboard main flap. The actions required by that AD are necessary to detect missing, loose, or cracked bolts on the supports of the inboard main flap and prevent loss of the inboard main flap, which could result in loss of control of the airplane.

#### **Actions Since Issuance of Previous Rule**

Since the issuance of AD 2002-16-05, we have found that, for certain airplanes, the one-time inspection to determine if any bolt is missing from the inboard support of the inboard main flap, as specified in the referenced service bulletin, was inadvertently omitted from the current requirements of the AD. That inspection was identified in the preamble of the existing AD.

#### **Explanation of Requirements of Rule**

Since an unsafe condition has been identified that is likely to exist or develop on other airplanes of this same type design, this AD supersedes AD 2002-16-05 to continue to require a one-time inspection for missing bolts on the outboard support of the inboard main flap, and follow-on inspections and corrective actions, if necessary. This AD also adds a one-time inspection for missing bolts on the inboard support of the inboard main flap.

#### **Interim Action**

This is considered to be interim action. We are currently considering requiring the repetitive inspections for gaps, the torque check for loose bolts, and the replacement of existing titanium bolts with steel bolts described in the referenced service bulletin. However, the compliance time for these actions would be sufficiently long so that notice and opportunity for prior public comment will be practicable.

#### **Determination of Rule's Effective Date**

Since a situation exists that requires the immediate adoption of this regulation, it is found that notice and opportunity for prior public comment hereon are impracticable, and that good cause exists for making this amendment effective in less than 30 days.

## Comments Invited

Although this action is in the form of a final rule that involves requirements affecting flight safety and, thus, was not preceded by notice and an opportunity for public comment, comments are invited on this rule. Interested persons are invited to comment on this 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 under the caption ADDRESSES. All communications received on or before the closing date for comments will be considered, and this rule may be amended in light of the comments received. Factual information that supports the commenter's ideas and suggestions is extremely helpful in evaluating the effectiveness of the AD action and determining whether additional rulemaking action would be needed.

Submit comments using the following format:

- Organize comments issue-by-issue. For example, discuss a request to change the compliance time and a request to change the service bulletin reference as two separate issues.
- For each issue, state what specific change to the AD is being requested.
- Include justification (e.g., reasons or data) for each request.

Comments are specifically invited on the overall regulatory, economic, environmental, and energy aspects of the rule that might suggest a need to modify the 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 that summarizes each FAA-public contact concerned with the substance of this AD will be filed in the Rules Docket.

Commenters wishing the FAA to acknowledge receipt of their comments submitted in response to this rule must submit a self-addressed, stamped postcard on which the following statement is made: "Comments to Docket Number 2002-NM-250-AD." The postcard will be date stamped and returned to the commenter.

## Regulatory Impact

The regulations adopted herein 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. Therefore, it is determined that this final rule does not have federalism implications under Executive Order 13132.

The FAA has determined that this regulation is an emergency regulation that must be issued immediately to correct an unsafe condition in aircraft, and that it is not a "significant regulatory action" under Executive Order 12866. It has been determined further that this action involves an emergency regulation under DOT Regulatory Policies and Procedures (44 FR 11034, February 26, 1979). If it is determined that this emergency regulation otherwise would be significant under DOT Regulatory Policies and Procedures, a final regulatory evaluation will be prepared and placed in the Rules Docket. A copy of it, if filed, may be obtained from the Rules Docket at the location provided under the caption ADDRESSES.

## List of Subjects in 14 CFR Part 39

Air transportation, Aircraft, Aviation safety, Incorporation by reference, Safety.

## Adoption of the Amendment

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.

### **§ 39.13 [Amended]**

2. Section 39.13 is amended by removing amendment 39-12844 (67 FR 52401, August 12, 2002), and by adding a new airworthiness directive (AD), amendment 39-12932, to read as follows:

**SUPERSEDED**

# AIRWORTHINESS DIRECTIVE



Aircraft Certification Service  
Washington, DC

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

*We post ADs on the internet at "www.airweb.faa.gov/rgl"*

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).

**2002-22-07 Boeing:** Amendment 39-12932. Docket 2002-NM-250-AD. Supersedes AD 2002-16-05, amendment 39-12844.

**Applicability:** Model 767 series airplanes, including Model 767-400ER series airplanes, line numbers 1 through 879 inclusive, 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 (g)(1) 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 detect missing, loose, or cracked bolts on the inboard and outboard support of the inboard main flap and prevent loss of the inboard main flap, which could result in loss of control of the airplane, accomplish the following:

## **Restatement of Requirements of AD 2002-16-05**

*Group 1 and 2 Airplanes: One-Time Inspection for Missing or Loose Bolts*

(a) Within 90 days after August 27, 2002 (the effective date of AD 2002-16-05, amendment 39-12844), do a one-time general visual inspection to determine if any bolt is missing from the outboard support of the inboard main flap, per Part 2 or Part 8, as applicable, of the Accomplishment Instructions of Boeing Alert Service Bulletin 767-27A0176, Revision 1, dated June 6, 2002. Group 1 airplanes may comply with the replacement specified in paragraph (c) of this AD in lieu of the inspection in this paragraph, provided that the replacement per paragraph (c) of this AD is accomplished within the compliance time specified in this paragraph.

**Note 2:** For the purposes of this AD, a general visual inspection is defined as: "A visual examination of an interior or exterior area, installation, or assembly to detect obvious damage, failure, or irregularity. This level of inspection is made from within touching distance unless otherwise specified. A mirror may be necessary to enhance visual access to all exposed surfaces in the inspection area. This level of inspection is made under normally available lighting conditions

such as daylight, hangar lighting, flashlight, or droplight and may require removal or opening of access panels or doors. Stands, ladders, or platforms may be required to gain proximity to the area being checked."

(1) If no bolt is missing, before further flight, do a general visual inspection for a gap between the nut and surrounding structure or between shim and joint (which would indicate a loose bolt), per Part 2 or Part 8, as applicable, of the Accomplishment Instructions of the service bulletin. If no bolt is missing and no gap is found, no further action is required by this paragraph.

(2) If any bolt is missing, before further flight, do paragraph (b) of this AD. In lieu of paragraph (b) of this AD, airplanes in Group 1 may comply with paragraph (c) of this AD.

*Group 1 and 2 Airplanes: Missing Bolts or Gaps—Follow-On Actions*

(b) For Group 1 or 2 airplanes as listed in Boeing Alert Service Bulletin 767-27A0176, Revision 1, dated June 6, 2002: If any bolt is missing or any gap is found during the inspections per paragraph (a) of this AD, before further flight, remove all of the bolts in the subject area and replace them with new or serviceable bolts, per Figure 6, 7, or 8 of the service bulletin, as applicable. For any attachment hole where the bolt was missing, install a new or serviceable bolt made from the same material as the other bolts, per the Accomplishment Instructions of the service bulletin.

(1) An existing bolt may be reinstalled if a fluorescent dye penetrant inspection for cracking is done per Part 5 of the Accomplishment Instructions of the service bulletin, and the bolt is found to be free of any crack.

(2) Do not intermix BACB30MR\*K\* bolts with BACB30LE\*K\* or BACB30US\*K\* bolts in the joints subject to this AD.

*Group 1 Airplanes: Optional Action*

(c) For Group 1 airplanes as listed in Boeing Alert Service Bulletin 767-27A0176, Revision 1, dated June 6, 2002: Replacement of all subject titanium bolts with new steel bolts per Part 6 of the Accomplishment Instructions of the service bulletin is acceptable for compliance with paragraphs (a) and (f) of this AD and eliminates the need for the inspections required by those paragraphs. Do not intermix BACB30MR\*K\* bolts with BACB30LE\*K\* or BACB30US\*K\* bolts in the joints subject to this AD.

*Model 767-400ER Series Airplanes: Initial Inspection and Corrective Actions*

(d) For Model 767-400ER series airplanes: Within 90 days after August 27, 2002, do a one-time general visual inspection to determine if any bolt is missing from the inboard and outboard support of the inboard main flap, and do a detailed inspection for a gap between the nut and surrounding structure or between shim and joint (which would indicate a loose bolt), per Figure 2 of Boeing Alert Service Bulletin 767-27A0176, Revision 1, dated June 6, 2002.

(1) If no bolt is missing and no gap is found: No further action is required by this paragraph.

(2) If any bolt is missing or any gap is found: Do paragraphs (d)(2)(i) and (d)(2)(ii) of this AD.

(i) Before further flight, repair per a method approved by the Manager, Seattle Aircraft Certification Office (ACO), FAA; or per data meeting the type certification basis of the airplane approved by a Boeing Company Designated Engineering Representative who has been authorized by the Manager, Seattle ACO, to make such findings. For a repair method to be approved as required by this paragraph, the approval must specifically refer to this AD.

(ii) Within 10 days after the inspections: Submit a report of inspection findings to the Manager, Boeing Certificate Management Office, FAA, Transport Airplane Directorate, 2500 East Valley Road, Suite C2, Renton, Washington 98055; fax (425) 227-1159. The report must include the airplane's serial number, the total number of flight cycles and flight hours on the airplane, the number and specific location of discrepant bolts, and the nature of the discrepancy (i.e., missing bolt or gap found). Information collection requirements contained in this AD have been approved by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) under the provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1980 (44 U.S.C. 3501 et seq.) and have been assigned OMB Control Number 2120-0056.

#### *Previously Accomplished Inspections and Bolt Replacements*

(e) Inspections and bolt replacements accomplished before the effective date of this AD per Boeing Alert Service Bulletin 767-27A0176, dated November 16, 2001, are acceptable for compliance with the corresponding actions required by this AD.

#### **New Requirements of This AD**

##### *Group 1 and 2 Airplanes: One-Time Inspection for Missing or Loose Bolts*

(f) Within 90 days after the effective date of this AD: Do the one-time general visual inspection required by paragraph (a) of this AD to determine if any bolt is missing from the inboard support of the inboard main flap, per Part 2 or Part 8, as applicable, of the Accomplishment Instructions of Boeing Alert Service Bulletin 767-27A0176, Revision 1, dated June 6, 2002. Group 1 airplanes may comply with the replacement specified in paragraph (c) of this AD in lieu of the inspection in this paragraph, provided that the replacement per paragraph (c) of this AD is accomplished within the compliance time specified in this paragraph.

#### **Alternative Methods of Compliance**

(g)(1) 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, Seattle ACO. Operators shall submit their requests through an appropriate FAA Principal Maintenance Inspector, who may add comments and then send it to the Manager, Seattle ACO.

(2) Alternative methods of compliance, approved previously in accordance with AD 2002-16-05, amendment 39-12844, are approved as alternative methods of compliance with paragraph (d)(2)(i) of this AD.

**Note 3:** Information concerning the existence of approved alternative methods of compliance with this AD, if any, may be obtained from the Seattle ACO.

#### **Special Flight Permits**

(h) 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.

#### **Incorporation by Reference**

(i) Unless otherwise provided in this AD, the actions shall be done per Boeing Alert Service Bulletin 767-27A0176, Revision 1, dated June 6, 2002. This incorporation by reference was approved previously by the Director of the Federal Register as of August 27, 2002 (67 FR 52401, August 12,

2002). Copies may be obtained from Boeing Commercial Airplane Group, P.O. Box 3707, Seattle, Washington 98124-2207. Copies may be inspected at the FAA, Transport Airplane Directorate, 1601 Lind Avenue, SW., Renton, Washington; or at the Office of the Federal Register, 800 North Capitol Street, NW., suite 700, Washington, DC.

**Effective Date**

(j) This amendment becomes effective on November 14, 2002.

Issued in Renton, Washington, on October 24, 2002.

Ali Bahrami,

Acting Manager, Transport Airplane Directorate, Aircraft Certification Service.

[FR Doc. 02-27557 Filed 10-29-02; 8:45 am]

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SUPERSEDED