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## **DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**

### **Federal Aviation Administration**

#### **14 CFR Part 39**

**[Docket No. FAA-2024-1697; Project Identifier AD-2024-00252-T; Amendment 39-22776; AD 2024-13-02]**

**RIN 2120-AA64**

### **Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes**

#### **AGENCY:**

Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), DOT.

#### **ACTION:**

Final rule; request for comments.

#### **SUMMARY:**

The FAA is adopting a new airworthiness directive (AD) for all The Boeing Company Model 737-8, 737-9, and 737-8200 airplanes and Model 737-700, -800, and -900ER series airplanes. This AD was prompted by multiple reports of passenger service unit (PSU) oxygen generators shifting out of position within their associated PSU assemblies because of a retention failure. This AD requires a general visual inspection of the PSU oxygen generator installation to determine the configuration of the thermal pads of the retention straps and applicable on-condition actions. This AD also prohibits the installation of affected parts. The FAA is issuing this AD to address the unsafe condition on these products.

#### **DATES:**

This AD is effective July 25, 2024.

The Director of the Federal Register approved the incorporation by reference of certain publications listed in this AD as of July 25, 2024.

The FAA must receive comments on this AD by August 26, 2024.

## ADDRESSES:

You may send comments, using the procedures found in [14 CFR 11.43](#) and [11.45](#), by any of the following methods:

- *Federal eRulemaking Portal:* Go to *regulations.gov*. Follow the instructions for submitting comments.
- *Fax:* 202-493-2251.
- *Mail:* U.S. Department of Transportation, Docket Operations, M-30, West Building Ground Floor, Room W12-140, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE, Washington, DC 20590.
- *Hand Delivery:* Deliver to Mail address above between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays.

*AD Docket:* You may examine the AD docket at *regulations.gov* under Docket No. FAA-2024-1697; 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 street address for Docket Operations is listed above.

### *Material Incorporated by Reference:*

- For Boeing material, contact Boeing Commercial Airplanes, Attention: Contractual & Data Services (C&DS), 2600 Westminister Blvd., MC 110-SK57, Seal Beach, CA 90740-5600; telephone 562-797-1717; [websitesmyboeingfleet.com](http://websitesmyboeingfleet.com).
- You may view this material 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 *regulations.gov* under Docket No. FAA-2024-1697.

## FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Nicole Tsang, Aviation Safety Engineer, FAA, 2200 South 216th St., Des Moines, WA 98198; phone: 206-231-3959; email: [Nicole.S.Tsang@faa.gov](mailto:Nicole.S.Tsang@faa.gov).

## SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

### Comments Invited

The FAA invites you to send any written data, views, or arguments about this final rule. Send your comments to an address listed under **ADDRESSES**. Include Docket No. FAA-2024-1697 and Project Identifier AD-2024-00252-T at the beginning of your comments. The most helpful comments reference a specific portion of the final rule, explain the reason for any recommended change, and include supporting data. The FAA will consider all comments received by the closing date and may amend this final rule because of those comments.

Except for Confidential Business Information (CBI) as described in the following paragraph, and other information as described in [14 CFR 11.35](#), the FAA will post all comments received, without change, to *regulations.gov*, including any personal information you provide. The agency will also post a report summarizing each substantive verbal contact received about this final rule.

### Confidential Business Information

CBI is commercial or financial information that is both customarily and actually treated as private by its owner. Under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) ([5 U.S.C. 552](#)), CBI is exempt from public disclosure. If your comments responsive to this AD contain commercial or financial information that is customarily treated as private, that you actually treat as private, and that is relevant or responsive to this AD, it is important that you clearly designate the submitted comments as CBI. Please mark each page of your submission containing CBI as “PROPIN.” The FAA will treat such marked submissions as confidential under the FOIA, and they will not be placed in the public docket of this AD. Submissions containing CBI should be sent to Nicole Tsang, Aviation Safety Engineer, FAA, 2200 South 216th St. Des Moines, WA 98198; phone: 206-231-3959; email: [Nicole.S.Tsang@faa.gov](mailto:Nicole.S.Tsang@faa.gov). Any commentary that the FAA receives that is not specifically designated as CBI will be placed in the public docket for this rulemaking.

## Background

The FAA has received multiple reports of PSU oxygen generators shifting out of position within their associated PSU assemblies because of a retention failure. Boeing has investigated the condition and found that the oxygen generator retention failures were caused by a failure of the pressure-sensitive adhesive (PSA) material on certain generator strap thermal pads. The oxygen generator is secured to the PSU assembly by two retention straps, with either PSA or non-PSA thermal pads. For all reported failures, the PSA thermal pad configurations were under the retention straps. This condition, if not addressed, could result in shifted PSU oxygen generators that might become non-functional, which could result in an inability to provide supplemental oxygen to passengers during a depressurization event. The FAA is issuing this AD to address the unsafe condition on these products.

## FAA's Determination

The FAA is issuing this AD because the agency has determined the unsafe condition described previously is likely to exist or develop in other products of the same type design.

## Related Material Under [1 CFR Part 51](#)

The FAA reviewed Boeing Special Attention Requirements Bulletin 737-35-1210 RB, dated June 17, 2024; and Boeing Special Attention Requirements Bulletin 737-35-1211 RB, dated June 17, 2024. This material specifies procedures for a general visual inspection of the PSU oxygen generator installation to determine the configuration of the thermal pads of the retention straps and applicable on-condition actions for Group 1 and Group 2 airplanes as identified in this material. On-condition actions include doing a general visual inspection of the affected PSU oxygen generator to identify any installation migration and expended oxygen, as applicable; replacing affected PSU oxygen generators with new or serviceable PSU oxygen generators; replacing PSA retention strap thermal pads with non-PSA retention strap thermal pads; repositioning affected PSU oxygen generators; and making sure affected PSU oxygen generator installation migration is not found and oxygen has not been expended. These documents are distinct since they apply to different airplane models.

This material is reasonably available because the interested parties have access to it through their normal course of business or by the means identified in **ADDRESSES**.

## AD Requirements

This AD requires accomplishing the actions identified in Boeing Special Attention Requirements Bulletin 737-35-1210 RB, dated June 17, 2024; or Boeing Special Attention Requirements Bulletin 737-35-1211 RB, dated June 17, 2024, already described, except for any differences identified as exceptions in the regulatory text of this AD. This AD also prohibits the installation of affected parts for all airplanes identified in paragraph (c) of this AD.

For information on the procedures and compliance times, see this material at *regulations.gov* under Docket No. FAA-2024-1697.

### **Justification for Immediate Adoption and Determination of the Effective Date**

Section 553(b)(3)(B) of the Administrative Procedure Act (APA) ([5 U.S.C. 551 et seq.](#)) authorizes agencies to dispense with notice and comment procedures for rules when the agency, for “good cause,” finds that those procedures are “impracticable, unnecessary, or contrary to the public interest.” Under this section, an agency, upon finding good cause, may issue a final rule without providing notice and seeking comment prior to issuance. Further, section 553(d) of the APA authorizes agencies to make rules effective in less than thirty days, upon a finding of good cause.

An unsafe condition exists that requires the immediate adoption of this AD without providing an opportunity for public comments prior to adoption. The FAA has found that the risk to the flying public justifies forgoing notice and comment prior to adoption of this rule because PSU oxygen generators might shift out of position within the PSU assembly because of a retention failure and become non-functional, which could result in an inability to provide supplemental oxygen to passengers during a depressurization event. Accordingly, notice and opportunity for prior public comment are impracticable and contrary to the public interest pursuant to [5 U.S.C. 553\(b\)\(3\)\(B\)](#).

The compliance time in this AD is shorter than the time necessary for the public to comment and for publication of the final rule. In addition, the FAA finds that good cause exists pursuant to [5 U.S.C. 553\(d\)](#) for making this amendment effective in less than 30 days, for the same reasons the FAA found good cause to forgo notice and comment.

### **Regulatory Flexibility Act**

The requirements of the Regulatory Flexibility Act (RFA) do not apply when an agency finds good cause pursuant to [5 U.S.C. 553](#) to adopt a rule without prior notice and comment. Because the FAA has determined that it has good cause to adopt this rule without notice and comment, RFA analysis is not required.

### **Costs of Compliance**

The FAA estimates that this AD affects 2,612 airplanes of U.S. registry. The FAA estimates the following costs to comply with this AD:

#### **Estimated Costs**

<b>Action</b>	<b>Labor cost</b>	<b>Parts cost</b>	<b>Cost per product</b>	<b>Cost on U.S. operators</b>
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<b>Action</b>	<b>Labor cost</b>	<b>Parts cost</b>	<b>Cost per product</b>	<b>Cost on U.S. operators</b>
Inspection to determine thermal pad configuration of the PSU oxygen generator	1 work-hour × \$85 per hour = \$85	\$0	\$85	\$222,020

The FAA estimates the following costs to do any necessary on-condition actions that would be required based on the results of the inspection. The FAA has no way of determining the number of aircraft that might need these on-condition actions.

### **On-Condition Costs**

<b>Action</b>	<b>Labor cost</b>	<b>Parts cost</b>	<b>Cost per product</b>
Inspection to identify any expended oxygen and installation migration, as applicable	1 work-hour × \$85 per hour = \$85	\$0	\$85
Replacement of PSU oxygen generator	1 work-hour × \$85 per hour = \$85	Up to \$1,374	Up to \$1,459.
Replacement of PSA retention strap thermal pad (each PSU oxygen generator has 2 pads)	1 work-hour × \$85 per hour = \$85, per pad	\$68, per pad	\$153, per pad.
Repositioning of PSU oxygen generator	1 work-hour × \$85 per hour = \$85	\$0	\$85
Making sure PSU oxygen generator installation migration is not found and oxygen is not expended	1 work-hour × \$85 per hour = \$85	\$0	\$85

### **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](#), and
- (2) Will not affect intrastate aviation in Alaska.

#### 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:

**2024-13-02 The Boeing Company:** Amendment 39-22776; Docket No. FAA-2024-1697; Project Identifier AD-2024-00252-T.

#### **(a) Effective Date**

This airworthiness directive (AD) is effective July 25, 2024.

#### **(b) Affected ADs**

None.

#### **(c) Applicability**

This AD applies to all The Boeing Company Model 737-8, 737-9, and 737-8200 airplanes and Model 737-700, -800, and -900ER series airplanes, certificated in any category.

#### **(d) Subject**

Air Transport Association (ATA) of America Code 35, Oxygen.

### **(e) Unsafe Condition**

This AD was prompted by multiple reports of passenger service unit (PSU) oxygen generators shifting out of position within their associated PSU assemblies because of a retention failure. The FAA is issuing this AD to address PSU oxygen generators that might shift out of position within the PSU assembly and become non-functional. The unsafe condition, if not addressed, could result in an inability to provide supplemental oxygen to passengers during a depressurization event.

### **(f) Compliance**

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

### **(g) Required Actions**

(1) For Model 737-8, 737-9, and 737-8200 airplanes as identified in Boeing Special Attention Requirements Bulletin 737-35-1210 RB, dated June 17, 2024: Except as specified by paragraph (h) of this AD, at the applicable times specified in the “Compliance” paragraph of Boeing Special Attention Requirements Bulletin 737-35-1210 RB, dated June 17, 2024, do all applicable actions identified in, and in accordance with, the Accomplishment Instructions of Boeing Special Attention Requirements Bulletin 737-35-1210 RB, dated June 17, 2024.

**Note 1 to paragraph (g)(1):** Guidance for accomplishing the actions required by this AD can be found in Boeing Special Attention Service Bulletin 737-35-1210, dated June 17, 2024, which is referred to in Boeing Special Attention Requirements Bulletin 737-35-1210 RB, dated June 17, 2024.

(2) For Model 737-700, -800, and -900ER series airplanes as identified in Boeing Special Attention Requirements Bulletin 737-35-1211 RB, dated June 17, 2024: Except as specified by paragraph (h) of this AD, at the applicable times specified in the “Compliance” paragraph of Boeing Special Attention Requirements Bulletin 737-35-1211 RB, dated June 17, 2024, do all applicable actions identified in, and in accordance with, the Accomplishment Instructions of Boeing Special Attention Requirements Bulletin 737-35-1211 RB, dated June 17, 2024.

**Note 2 to paragraph (g)(2):** Guidance for accomplishing the actions required by this AD can be found in Boeing Special Attention Service Bulletin 737-35-1211, dated June 17, 2024, which is referred to in Boeing Special Attention Requirements Bulletin 737-35-1211 RB, dated June 17, 2024.

### **(h) Exceptions to Service Information Specifications**

(1) Where the Compliance Time columns of the tables in the “Compliance” paragraph of Boeing Special Attention Requirements Bulletin 737-35-1210 RB, dated June 17, 2024, refer to the original issue date of Requirements Bulletin 737-35-1210 RB, this AD requires using the effective date of this AD.

(2) Where the Compliance Time columns of the tables in the “Compliance” paragraph of Boeing Special Attention Requirements Bulletin 737-35-1211 RB, dated June 17, 2024, refer to the original issue date of Requirements Bulletin 737-35-1211 RB, this AD requires using the effective date of this AD.

### **(i) Parts Installation Prohibition**



As of the effective date of the AD, no person may install a pressure-sensitive adhesive (PSA) thermal pad, part number 53010 or 73667, under the PSU oxygen generator retention strap, on any airplane.

#### **(j) Alternative Methods of Compliance (AMOCs)**

(1) The Manager, AIR-520, Continued Operational Safety 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 responsible Flight Standards 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 (k)(1) of this AD. Information may be emailed to: [AMOC@faa.gov](mailto:AMOC@faa.gov).

(2) Before using any approved AMOC, notify your appropriate principal inspector, or lacking a principal inspector, the manager of the responsible Flight Standards 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, AIR-520, Continued Operational Safety 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.

#### **(k) Related Information**

(1) For more information about this AD, contact Nicole Tsang, Aviation Safety Engineer, FAA, 2200 South 216th St., Des Moines, WA 98198; phone: 206-231-3959; email: [Nicole.S.Tsang@faa.gov](mailto:Nicole.S.Tsang@faa.gov).

(2) Boeing material identified in this AD that is not incorporated by reference is available at the address specified in paragraph (l)(3) of this AD.

#### **(l) 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 material as applicable to do the actions required by this AD, unless the AD specifies otherwise.

(i) Boeing Special Attention Requirements Bulletin 737-35-1210 RB, dated June 17, 2024.

(ii) Boeing Special Attention Requirements Bulletin 737-35-1211 RB, dated June 17, 2024.

(3) For Boeing material, contact Boeing Commercial Airplanes, Attention: Contractual & Data Services (C&DS), 2600 Westminister Blvd., MC 110-SK57, Seal Beach, CA 90740-5600; telephone 562-797-1717; website [myboeingfleet.com](http://myboeingfleet.com).

(4) You may view this material 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 material at the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA). For information on the availability of this material at NARA, visit [www.archives.gov/federal-register/cfr/ibr-locations](http://www.archives.gov/federal-register/cfr/ibr-locations) or email [fr.inspection@nara.gov](mailto:fr.inspection@nara.gov).

Issued on June 20, 2024.

Suzanne Masterson,

Deputy Director, Integrated Certificate Management Division, Aircraft Certification Service.

[[FR Doc. 2024-15229](#) Filed 7-8-24; 11:15 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-13-P