FAA
Aviation Safety

EMERGENCY AIRWORTHINESS DIRECTIVE

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DATE: February 14, 2020
AD #: 2020-03-50

Emergency Airworthiness Directive (AD) 2020-03-50 is sent to owners and operators of Cirrus Design Corporation (Cirrus) Model SF50 airplanes.

Background

This emergency AD was prompted by a cabin fire incident that occurred recently on a Cirrus Model SF50 airplane during ground operations. The operator observed smoke exiting from behind the right sidewall interior panel located behind crew seat 2 and forward of passenger seat 5. The investigation into the incident determined the probable root cause was a malfunction of the headset amplifier (part number (P/N) 38849-001) and the microphone interface (P/N 35809-001) circuit card assemblies for the 3.5 millimeter (mm) audio and microphone jacks. This malfunction can result in an electrical short and subsequent uncontained cabin fire without activating circuit protection. This condition, if not addressed, could lead to uncontained cabin fire, resulting in possible occupant injury or loss of airplane control.

Relevant Service Information

The FAA reviewed Cirrus Alert Service Bulletin Number SBA5X-23-03, dated February 7, 2020 (SBA5X-23-03). The service information contains instructions to disconnect and remove the headset amplifier and microphone interface circuit card assemblies for the 3.5 mm audio and microphone jacks.

FAA's Determination

The FAA is issuing this AD because it evaluated all the relevant information and determined the unsafe condition described previously is likely to exist or develop in other products of the same type design.

AD Requirements

This AD requires accomplishing the actions specified in SBA5X-23-03 as described previously.

Interim Action

The FAA considers this AD, which addresses malfunction of the headset amplifier and the microphone interface circuit card assemblies, an interim action. Cirrus is developing corrective action that will address the unsafe condition identified in this AD. Once this action is developed, approved, and available, the FAA may consider additional rulemaking.

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.

This AD is issued in accordance with authority delegated by the Executive Director, Aircraft Certification Service, as authorized by FAA Order 8000.51C. In accordance with that order, issuance of ADs is normally a function of the Compliance and Airworthiness Division, but during this transition period, the Executive Director has delegated the authority to issue ADs applicable to small airplanes, gliders, balloons, airships, domestic business jet transport airplanes, and associated appliances to the Director of the Policy and Innovation Division.

Presentation of the Actual AD

The FAA is issuing this AD under 49 U.S.C. Section 44701 according to the authority delegated to me by the Administrator.

2020-03-50 Cirrus Design Corporation: Product Identifier 2020-CE-001-AD.

(a) Effective Date

This Emergency AD is effective upon receipt.

(b) Affected ADs

None.

(c) Applicability

This AD applies to Cirrus Design Corporation Model SF50 airplanes, serial numbers 0005 through 0176 and 0178, certificated in any category.

(d) Subject

Joint Aircraft System Component (JASC)/Air Transport Association (ATA) of America Code 23; Communications.

(e) Unsafe Condition

This AD was prompted by a cabin fire incident that occurred on a Cirrus Model SF50 airplane during ground operations. The investigation into the incident determined the probable root cause was a malfunction of the headset amplifier (part number (P/N) 38849-001) and the microphone interface (P/N 35809-001) circuit card assemblies for the 3.5 millimeter (mm) audio and microphone jacks. The FAA is issuing this AD to prevent an electrical short and subsequent uncontained cabin fire, which could result in occupant injury or loss of airplane control.

(f) Compliance

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

(g) Corrective Action

Before further flight, disconnect and remove the headset amplifier and microphone interface circuit card assemblies by following the Accomplishment Instructions, steps A. and G. through K., of Cirrus Alert Service Bulletin Number SBA5X-23-03, dated February 7, 2020.

(h) Special Flight Permit

Special flight permits are prohibited.

(i) Alternative Methods of Compliance (AMOCs)

(1) The Manager, Chicago 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 (j)(1) of this AD.

(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.

(j) Related Information

(1) For further information about this AD, contact: Joseph Dubusky, Aerospace Engineer, Chicago ACO Branch, FAA, 2300 East Devon Avenue, Room 107, Des Plaines, Illinois 60018; phone: 847-294-7543; fax: 847-294-7834; email: joseph.dubusky@faa.gov.

(2) For copies of the service information referenced in this AD, contact: Cirrus Design Corporation; 4515 Taylor Circle Duluth, MN 55811; phone: (800) 279-4322; email: info@cirrusaircraft.com; Internet: https://cirrusaircraft.com. You may view this referenced service information at the FAA, Policy and Innovation Division, 901 Locust, Kansas City, Missouri 64106. For information on the availability of this material at the FAA, call (816) 329-4148.

Issued on February 14, 2020