

Continued Airworthiness Notification to the International Community

To: Civil Aviation Authorities

Date: August 31, 2020

From: Federal Aviation Administration
Aircraft Certification Service
Compliance & Airworthiness Division

Subject: This message provides updated information regarding the FAA's ongoing activities related to damage or detachment of bilge barrier area decompression panels on Boeing Model 787-8, -9 and -10 airplanes.

Situation Description: Boeing identified a potential unsafe condition where bilge barrier area decompression panels have been found torn. In 2019, several operators reported multiple incidents of the condition. In the event of a cargo fire, a significant leakage in the bilge area could result in insufficient Halon concentrations to adequately control the cargo fire, potentially preventing continued safe flight and landing. A previous issue with damaged or detached bilge barrier area decompression panels led to AD 2016-09-12, which required inspection for detached decompression panels of the bilge barriers in the cargo compartments on Model 787-8 and -9 airplanes. AD 2016-09-12 was superseded by AD 2018-05-06 to correct the decompression panel clips slipping off the receptacles; it did not address the tearing of the panels. We note that compliance with AD 2018-05-06 is required by April 2021.

Aircraft/engine make, model, and series: Boeing Model 787-8, 787-9 and 787-10 airplanes

U.S.-registered fleet: 233 **Worldwide fleet:** 972

Operators: Most major U.S. airlines operate these airplanes.

Ongoing activities: The FAA is working with Boeing to develop interim action and may issue an immediately adopted rule to mandate inspections on airplanes on which the terminating modification required by AD 2018-05-06 has been completed.

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