

Continued Airworthiness Notification to the International Community

To: Civil Aviation Authorities

Date: October 1, 2020

From: Federal Aviation Administration (FAA)
Airworthiness Products Section
Operational Safety Branch
1200 District Avenue
Burlington, MA 01803

Subject: This message is to advise you of the FAA's ongoing activities related to a continued airworthiness safety issue for all General Electrical Company (GE) GE90-110B1 and GE90-115B model turbofan engines.

Accident/ Incident Description: On October 27, 2019, a Boeing Company Model 777-300 airplane operated by Etihad Airways and powered by GE GE90-115B model turbofan engines experienced an unresponsive throttle for 11.5 minutes during descent into Abu Dhabi International Airport. The pilot regained throttle control of the engine while at an altitude over 15,000 feet, continued the descent to the airport, and landed without further incident. The FAA determined an unsafe condition exists which requires the issuance of an immediately adopted rule.

Aircraft/ Engine Make, Model and Series: GE GE90-110B1 and GE90-115B model turbofan engines.

U.S.-registered fleet: 206

Worldwide fleet: 2,102

Operators: Including but not limited to: Aeroflot Russian Airlines, AeroLogic, Air Canada, Air China, Air France, Air India, American Airlines, ANA-All Nippon Airways, British Airways, Cathay Pacific, China Eastern Airlines, China Southern Airlines, Delta Air Lines, Emirates Airline, Ethiopian Airlines, Etihad Airways, EVA Air, FedEx Express, Japan Airlines, KLM Royal Dutch Airlines, Korean Air, Qatar Airways, Saudia, Singapore Airlines, Southern Air, Swiss Air Lines, Turkish Airlines, United Airlines.

Ongoing activities: The investigation by the manufacturer discovered that cracking of an integrated circuit solder ball caused one of the full authority digital engine control (FADEC) channels to read an erroneous thrust lever resolver angle value which, once selected, caused an erroneously high thrust command. The FAA considers the failure of the solder ball in the FADEC an urgent safety issue, requiring immediate dispatch prohibition of airplanes meeting certain engine indicating crew alerting system criteria listed in GE GE90-100 Service Bulletin 73-0117 R01, dated August 5, 2020.

Next update, if any: None.

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Note: This information is for the use of civil aviation authorities only and should not be released to the public at this time.