

Continued Airworthiness Notification to the International Community

To: Civil Aviation Authorities

Date: November 30, 2020

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

Subject: This message is to advise you of the FAA's ongoing continued operational activities related to the autopilot flight director system (AFDS) on Boeing Model 787-8, -9, and -10 airplanes.

Situation description: The FAA has received reports indicating that the AFDS failed to transition to the instrument landing system LOC beam after the consistent localizer capture function in the flight control modules initiated a transition to capture LOC during approach. This condition, if not addressed, could result in localizer overshoot leading to glideslope descent on the wrong heading. Combined with a lack of flight deck effects for a consistent localizer capture mode failure, this condition could result in a controlled flight into terrain.

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

U.S.-registered fleet: 144 airplanes; **Worldwide fleet:** 1,100 airplanes

U.S. Operators: United Airlines and American Airlines

Ongoing activities: The FAA plans to issue an immediately adopted rule to require revising the existing airplane flight manual (AFM) to incorporate procedures for conducting an approach with a localizer-based navigation aid, monitoring localizer raw data, calling out any significant deviations, and performing an immediate go-around if the airplane has not intercepted the final approach course as shown by the localizer deviation. The FAA considers this airworthiness directive (AD) interim action. The manufacturer is currently developing a modification that will address the unsafe condition identified in this AD. Once this modification is developed, approved, and available, the FAA might consider additional rulemaking.

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