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# **Enhanced Airworthiness Program for Airplane Systems**

Presented by:

Massoud Sadeghi

Aging Systems Program Manager

ATSRAC Meeting

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# EAPAS Implementation Plan

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The EAPAS is designed to enhance current airworthiness programs at operator facilities, repair stations, and manufacturing plants based on data-driven initiatives developed under the Aging Transport Non-Structural Systems Plan.



# Enhancement Categories

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The EAPAS implementation plan is organized into six major categories covering design, certification and maintenance of transport airplanes:

- Training
- Maintenance
- Design
- Research and Development
- Wire Reporting
- Information Sharing and Outreach



# EAPAS Tasks

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- Near-Term
  - Raise awareness about aging system issues
  - Enhancements/changes in training and maintenance programs
  - Tasks to be complete by late 2001
- Longer-Term
  - Institutionalize management of aging systems
  - Changes in inspections and Instructions for Continued Airworthiness
  - Changes to FARs for improvements in certification and maintenance
  - Tasks are planned to be complete by mid-2004



# EAPAS Near-Term Actions

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- Original equipment manufacturers (OEM) will distribute to operators a “lessons learned” document and including information about contamination.
- The FAA will communicate its EAPAS Implementation Plan to airworthiness authorities, industry, and public.

During January 2001 ATSRAC meeting OEMs agreed to include information in service data. A formal FAA letter is provided in this meeting, requesting notes in service data for wire contamination.

On going. EAPAS is being presented through ATSRAC meetings and other technical working groups and meetings.



# EAPAS Near-Term Actions

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- The FAA will draft an EAPAS Advisory Circular (AC) for aging systems maintenance and training programs.
- AFS will propose the adoption of voluntary changes to operations specifications (OpSpecs) for aging systems maintenance and training programs. Issue handbook information bulletin to explain to principal inspectors (PI) the voluntary OpSpecs and proposed rule changes.

Advisory Circular has been drafted and will be presented to FAA after the Jan 23-24 ATSRAC meeting.

To coincide with the release of the draft Advisory Circular.



# EAPAS Near-Term Actions

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- The FAA will complete a wire systems training program for Engineers, Inspectors and Designees.
- The FAA will issue Notice of Proposed Rule (NPRM) Airworthiness Directives (AD) based on ATSRAC recommendations.
- - 80% of the FAA Systems and Propulsion engineer have received the training.  
- By October 2002 rest will be trained.  
- FAA courses include the information.  
- Information provided as Job Aid on internet.
- 23 AD's identified. Final rules for 22 AD's have been published. Final for 1 AD is in process.



# EAPAS Near-Term Actions

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- The FAA will publish a wire installation drawing policy letter.
- FAA will develop internal guidance and an AC for service difficulty reporting (SDR) rules.
- Review, analyze, and prepare recommendations in response to intrusive inspection conclusions and recommendations.

A memo identifying requirements for aircraft installation wiring has been published.

Handbook information bulletin and advisory circular comments are currently being disposed. Release of SDR rule is January 16, 2003.

Reviews indicate that majority of the recommendations are being addressed. A few of the recommendations require further reviews and discussions.



# EAPAS Longer-Term Actions

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- Issue a Special Federal Aviation Regulation (SFAR) for development of an Enhanced Zonal Assessment Process (EZAP).
- Propose changes to update parts 91, 121, 125, and 129 of FAR to add aging systems to the maintenance program.
- Develop a Phase II part 121 Advisory Circular (AC) to define an aging systems maintenance and training program.
- Change part 25 of FAR.

FAA is currently preparing to begin rulemaking process when ATSRAC reports are received.



# EAPAS Status

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- The EAPAS implementation plan was approved and published August 16, 2001.
- The EAPAS Near-Term actions are being accomplished.
- FAA is preparing to receive ATSRAC reports to start rulemaking process.