



Related Topics

Marv Nuss

Small Airplane Directorate

Continued Operational Safety

Program Manager

**FAA Public Meeting
Proposed Cessna 400 Series Wing Spar AD
Hilton Dulles Airport
March 3-4, 2004**



Related Topics

- ▶ Aging Airplane Program (Marv Nuss)
- ▶ Aging Research Program (Michael Shiao)
- ▶ Flight Standards Policies F/P135
Maintenance (Wayne Fry)

FAA's Aging Airplane Program



Overview

- Background
- Aging Commuter Program Policies
- Aging Airplane Rules

FAA's Aging Airplane Program



Background

- ▶ 1988 Aloha Accident Raised Concerns
- ▶ Congress Legislated FAA Action
 - Operations in Air Transportation
 - Aging Transports
 - Aging Commuters
 - Aging A/C Research
- ▶ Program Expanded
 - Engines and Rotorcraft
 - Scope broadened beyond structures to include wiring and systems f/ transports



Aging Airplane Safety Act of 1991

Congress Directed Actions by FAA:

- FAA must prescribe regulations “...to assure the continuing airworthiness of aging aircraft.”
- FAA must inspect airplanes & review maintenance records at end of the 14th year and repeat every Heavy Maintenance Check (HMC)

Aging Commuter Program Policy



- Terminate Repetitive Inspections

FAA policy since 1990:

“Continued inspection of an airplane for evidence of occurrence of a known problem for that model airplane, is an unacceptable procedure to assure safety. Modification or replacement of parts must be accomplished to preclude the occurrence of the problem.”



Terminating Repetitive Inspections

- ▶ AD reviews conducted with Mfgs
 - “The purpose of the AD review is to take a fresh look at existing ADs issued against commuter airplanes to determine if mandatory repetitive inspections should be terminated by the installation of a new replacement part or by installation of a permanent modification.”
- ▶ 25 Models reviewed
- ▶ 65 ADs issued
- ▶ Advisories for >200 other actions
- ▶ Minimized impact on GA

Aging Airplane Rulemaking Activity



- **Supplemental Inspection Programs (SIP)**
 - ▶ Interim Final Rule issued Dec 6, 2002
 - ▶ Multi-Engine in scheduled service
- **Corrosion Protection and Control Programs**
 - ▶ NPRM comment period closed April 1, 2003
 - ▶ Multi-Engine in scheduled service
- **Repair Assessment Program**
 - ▶ Final Rule issued April 18, 2000
 - ▶ 11 Large transport models
- **Widespread Fatigue Damage**
 - ▶ NPRM in work
 - ▶ Transports only

FAA's Aging Airplane Program



Summary

- ▶ Rules apply only to scheduled service
- ▶ Policy is to terminate repetitive inspections
- ▶ FAA encourages incorporation of Structural Inspection Programs (SIP) regardless of operation