

Boeing Commercial Airplanes

POSITION STATEMENT

SUBJECT: FAA airworthiness directive pertaining to 787 electrical systems

SUMMARY: The Federal Aviation Administration issued an airworthiness directive that makes mandatory an action recommended by Boeing that 787 operators verify that they have performed a power off/on cycle for 787s within the last 120 days. This is because a condition was found in the lab that if an airplane is powered continuously for 248 days, potentially all six of the airplane's generators could go offline at the same time, resulting in a loss of alternating current (AC) electrical power.

BOEING STATEMENT:

- Boeing works closely with the FAA to monitor the fleet and take appropriate action. This is an ongoing and continuous process.
- The AD action addresses a condition that only occurred in the lab. Simulated testing determined that this condition is possible in cases where an airplane's power is left on for more than eight continuous months. No airplane in the fleet experienced that condition.
- All airplanes in service already have performed a power off/power on cycle in the course of performing maintenance activities, according to Boeing's detailed records of operators' 787 fleet maintenance.
- Performing the power off/power on cycle eliminates the extremely low risk of all six generators aboard the airplane losing power at the same time.
- If there is a definitive record of a power cycle within the last 120 days, no operator action is immediately required. Operators will perform periodic power cycling at scheduled intervals until incorporating a software update Boeing will issue in the fourth quarter of 2015.
- This airworthiness directive (AD) mandates actions Boeing recommended to operators on April 19, 2015.
- Boeing's recommendations are not binding on operators. Only a regulatory agency has the authority to require them. That is what the FAA's rule does.
- ADs are part of the long-standing rulemaking process by which airplane manufacturers, operators and regulators work together to ensure that the safety of the world's commercial jetliners continues at the highest levels.

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