

ORDER: 8300.10

APPENDIX: 4

BULLETIN TYPE: Flight Standards Information Bulletin
(FSIB) for Airworthiness (FSAW)

BULLETIN NUMBER: FSAW 00-09

BULLETIN TITLE: Special Emphasis Inspection on
Contamination of Thermal/Acoustic
Insulation

EFFECTIVE DATE: 09-28-00

TRACKING NUMBER: N/A

APPLICABILITY:

M/M	ATA Code	14 CFR	PTRS
N/A	21, 23, 24, 26, 28, 32, 38, 39, 49, 51, 53, 71, and 75	21/39/91/121/125	3342

NOTE: THIS BULLETIN REQUIRES PTRS INPUT. SEE PARAGRAPH #4.

1. PURPOSE. This bulletin contains information and direction for Principal Maintenance Inspectors (PMI) who have certificate responsibility for Title 14 Code of Federal Regulations (14 CFR) part 121 and 125 operators. It is to ensure that operator's maintenance programs of large transport category airplanes include approved procedures for the inspection of thermal/acoustic insulation during heavy maintenance checks for any contamination.

2. BACKGROUND.

A. Recently, the Federal Aviation Administration's (FAA) Aircraft Certification Service (AIR) issued two Airworthiness Directives (AD), AD 2000-11-01 and 2000-11-02, requiring operators of certain McDonnell Douglas airplanes to determine whether their airplanes have metalized Mylar covered insulation materials; i.e., metalized polyethylene teraphthalate (MPET) installed. If this type of insulation is installed, the metalized mylar must be replaced with new insulation materials within five years.

B. In the interim the FAA is in the process of upgrading the flammability standards for thermal/acoustic insulation for transport category airplanes. This new flame propagation standard is based on an American Society for Testing and Materials flammability standard.

C. The new standards would significantly improve the fire resistance of thermal/acoustic insulation materials. Research data has shown, however, that the flammability of most materials can change if the materials are contaminated. Contamination may be in the form of lint, dust, grease, etc., and can increase the material's susceptibility to ignition and flame propagation.

3. ACTION. PMI's with responsibility for 14 CFR parts 121 and 125 operators should ensure that the operator has established procedures in their approved maintenance program for the inspection of thermal/acoustic insulation for any contamination during heavy maintenance checks. If the operator discovers contamination of the insulation, the operator should take corrective action, i.e., cleaning or replacement of the insulation as appropriate.

4. PROGRAM TRACKING AND REPORTING SUBSYSTEM (PTRS) INPUT. In order to track the accomplishment of the Action paragraph number 3 the following entries shall be made by the PMI. The activity code number shall be 3342, the "National Use" field entry shall be FSAW0009, and comments if any in section IV.

5. INQUIRIES. This bulletin was developed by the Flight Standards, Air Carrier Maintenance Branch, AFS-330, and Northwest Mountain Region Transport Airplane Directorate ANM-110. Any questions regarding the guidance in this bulletin should be directed to Stephen Gibbs, AFS-330, at (202) 267-3440.

6. EXPIRATION. This bulletin will expire on 09-30-01.

/s/

Angela B. Elgee, Manager
Continuous Airworthiness Maintenance Division