this bilateral airworthiness agreement, the DGAC has kept the FAA informed of the situation described above. The FAA has examined the findings of the DGAC, reviewed all available information, and determined that AD action is necessary for products of this type design that are certificated for operation in the United States.

Since an unsafe condition has been identified that is likely to exist or develop on other airplanes of the same type design, this AD is being issued to prevent failure of the rear hinge pin on the MLG leg, which could lead to failure of the MLG leg or the MLG attachment assembly. This AD requires, initially, repetitive visual inspections off the MLG rear hinge pin bush to ensure that the bush has not moved and that the sealant at the level of the bush does not show any cracks, and correction of discrepancies. It also requires repetitive boroscope inspections to detect cracks of the MLG leg-to-aircraft rear hinge pin, and replacement of the pin, if necessary. As terminating action for those inspections, this AD requires an ultrasonic inspection of the MLG aft hinge pins to ensure that the pin is free of material defects, and replacement of the pin with new pin, if necessary. These actions are required to be accomplished in accordance with the service bulletins described previously.

As a result of recent communications with the Air Transport Association (ATA) of America, the FAA has learned that, in general, some operators may misunderstand the legal effect of AD's on airplanes that are identified in the applicability provision of the AD, but that have been altered or repaired in the area addressed by the AD. The FAA points out that all airplanes identified in the applicability provision of an AD are legally subject to the AD. If an airplane has been altered or repaired in the affected area in such a way as to affect compliance with the AD, the owner or operator is required to obtain FAA approval for an alternative method of compliance with the AD, in accordance with the paragraph of each AD that provides for such approvals. A note has been included in this AD to clarify this long-standing requirement.

There currently are no affected Model ATR72–101, –102, or –202 series airplanes on the U.S. Register. All airplanes included in the applicability of this rule currently are operated by non-U.S. operators under foreign registry; therefore, they are not directly affected by this AD action. However, the FAA considers that this rule is necessary to ensure that the unsafe condition is addressed in the event that any of these subject airplanes are

imported and placed on the U.S. Register in the future.

Should an affected airplane be imported and placed on the U.S. Register in the future, the following costs would apply:

Accomplishment of a required repetitive visual inspections would require approximately .5 work hour per bush, at an average labor charge of \$60 per work hour. Based on these figures, the total cost impact of this requirement would be \$30 per bush per inspection.

Accomplishment of a required repetitive boroscope inspections would require approximately 3 work hours per pin, at an average labor charge of \$60 per work hour. Based on these figures, the total cost impact of this requirement would be \$180 per pin per inspection.

Accomplishment of a required onetime ultrasonic inspection would require approximately 11 work hours per pin, at an average labor charge of \$60 per work hour. Based on these figures, the total cost impact of this requirement would be \$180 per pin.

Since this AD action does not affect any airplane that is currently on the U.S. register, it has no adverse economic impact and imposes no additional burden on any person. Therefore, notice and public procedures hereon are unnecessary and the amendment may be made effective in less than 30 days after publication in the **Federal Register**.

#### **Comments Invited**

Although this action is in the form of a final rule and was not preceded by notice and opportunity for public comment, comments are invited on this rule. Interested persons are invited to comment on this rule by submitting such written data, views, or arguments as they may desire. Communications shall identify the Rules Docket number and be submitted in triplicate to the address specified under the caption ADDRESSES. All communications received on or before the closing date for comments will be considered, and this rule may be amended in light of the comments received. Factual information that supports the commenter's ideas and suggestions is extremely helpful in evaluating the effectiveness of the AD action and determining whether additional rulemaking action would be

Comments are specifically invited on the overall regulatory, economic, environmental, and energy aspects of the rule that might suggest a need to modify the rule. All comments submitted will be available, both before and after the closing date for comments, in the Rules Docket for examination by interested persons. A report that summarizes each FAA-public contact concerned with the substance of this AD will be filed in the Rules Docket.

Commenters wishing the FAA to acknowledge receipt of their comments submitted in response to this rule must submit a self-addressed, stamped postcard on which the following statement is made: "Comments to Docket Number 95–NM–60–AD." The postcard will be date stamped and returned to the commenter.

The regulations adopted herein will not have substantial direct effects on the States, on the relationship between the national government and the States, or on the distribution of power and responsibilities among the various levels of government. Therefore, in accordance with Executive Order 12612, it is determined that this final rule does not have sufficient federalism implications to warrant the preparation of a Federalism Assessment.

For the reasons discussed above, I certify that this action (1) Is not a "significant regulatory action" under Executive Order 12866; (2) is not a ''significant rule'' under DOT Regulatory Policies and Procedures (44 FR 11034, February 26, 1979); and (3) will not have a significant economic impact, positive or negative, on a substantial number of small entities under the criteria of the Regulatory Flexibility Act. A final evaluation has been prepared for this action and it is contained in the Rules Docket. A copy of it may be obtained from the Rules Docket at the location provided under the caption ADDRESSES.

### List of Subjects in 14 CFR Part 39

Air transportation, Aircraft, Aviation safety, Incorporation by reference, Safety.

#### **Adoption of the Amendment**

Accordingly, pursuant to the authority delegated to me by the Administrator, the Federal Aviation Administration amends part 39 of the Federal Aviation Regulations (14 CFR part 39) as follows:

# PART 39—AIRWORTHINESS DIRECTIVES

1. The authority citation for part 39 continues to read as follows:

**Authority:** 49 U.S.C. App. 1354(a), 1421 and 1423; 49 U.S.C. 106(g); and 14 CFR 11.89.

## § 39.13 [Amended]

2. Section 39.13 is amended by adding the following new airworthiness directive:

**95–12–08 Aerospatiale: Amendment 39–9258** Docket 95–NM–60–AD.