

OMB No. 2120-0731
REPORTING OF INFORMATION USING
SPECIAL AIRWORTHINESS INFORMATION BULLETINS

A. JUSTIFICATION

1. Explain the circumstances that make the collection of information necessary.

Chapter 447 of Title 49 United States Code (49 USC) defines the Administrator's powers and duties regarding the promotion of safety of flight of civil aircraft. Section 40113 of 49 USC authorizes the Administrator to take action he or she “*considers necessary to carry out this part, including investigations, prescribing regulations, standards, and procedures, and issuing orders.*” This section, in conjunction with 49 USC §§ 44701, 44702, and 44704, constitutes the basis for the FAA’s authority to issue airworthiness directives (ADs) to correct unsafe conditions.

One of the FAA’s primary functions is to require the correction of an unsafe condition under Title 14 of the Code of Federal Regulations (14 CFR) part 39 for type certificated products (that is aircraft, aircraft engines, propellers, or appliances) by means of an AD. Rulemaking in the form of an AD is appropriate only when an unsafe condition exists in a product and that unsafe condition is likely to exist or develop in other products of the same type design.

A special airworthiness information bulletin (SAIB) is an important tool that helps the FAA to gather information to determine whether an AD is necessary. An SAIB alerts, educates, and make recommendations to the aviation community and individual aircraft owners and operators about ways to improve the safety of a product. It contains non-regulatory information and guidance that is advisory and may include recommended actions or inspections with a request for voluntary reporting of inspection results.

2. Indicate how, by whom, and for what purpose the information is to be used and consequence(s) to Federal program or policy activities if the collection of information is not conducted.

The FAA sometimes includes a request for voluntary reporting of information (e.g., inspection results, etc.) in SAIBs. The inspection results may help the FAA in an ongoing investigation to determine the cause of a specific condition, or whether the condition is likely to exist or develop on other products of the same type design. We may also require reports if a potential unsafe condition is a result of manufacturing quality control problems. We need these reports to determine the scope of the problem and how adequate the design approval holder’s corrective actions are. As such, each reporting situation is unique.

To date, our only means for obtaining reporting information is from design approval holders through 14 CFR § 21.3. We have no other authorized method for notification and collection of information from owner/operators to help in our assessment of a potential unsafe

condition. If the FAA is unable to obtain this information, we may need to conduct a directed safety investigation. This is a burden on both the FAA and the owner/operator.

3. Describe whether, and to what extent, the collection of information involves the use of automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology, e.g., permitting electronic submission of responses, and the basis for the decision for adopting this means of collection. Also, describe any consideration of using information technology to reduce the burden.

Following the Government Paperwork Elimination Act (GPEA), we use e-mail and the Internet for corresponding with industry, accepting their 100% electronic submission of information. How to send the information to us, however, is up to owners and operators. We cannot mandate electronic submission of reports, because some of the affected parties are small businesses and/or individuals lacking electronic/Internet communication.

4. Describe efforts to identify duplication. Show specifically why any similar information already available cannot be used or modified for use for the purposes described in Item 2 above.

The FAA is the only government agency that issues SAIBs. Each SAIB is unique and concerns a specific condition on certain products. The information we need is only available from the owner/operator whose aircraft or aircraft product is inspected, modified, or repaired in accordance with the recommendations included in the SAIB.

5. If the collection of information impacts small businesses or other small entities (Item 5 of OMB Form 83-1, describe any methods used to minimize burden.

While we cannot predict exactly who owns the products that are the subject of SAIBs, there are only on average 65 SAIBs issued annually, with approximately 5 of those recommending a report for inspection results. With SAIBs, there is no intended burden on small businesses or other small entities because SAIBs are advisory only and include recommended actions and voluntary reporting.

6. Describe the consequence to Federal program or policy activities if the collection is not conducted or is conducted less frequently, as well as any technical or legal obstacles to reducing the burden.

We keep the information collection requirement to a minimum because we search our own databases and work with the design approval holder whenever possible before issuing an SAIB. We ask for reports only when we need more information to help us determine if an unsafe condition exists. The technical obstacle to reducing the burden is that we will not be able to obtain needed technical data to determine whether safety is at risk.

7. Explain any special circumstances that cause an information collection to be conducted in a manner that is inconsistent with 5 CFR § 1320.5(d)(2)(i)-(viii):

This information collection will be consistent with the requirements of 5 CFR §1320.5(d)(2) (i)-(viii).

8. If applicable, provide a copy and identify the date and page number of publication in the Federal Register of the agency's notice, required by 5 CFR 1320.8, soliciting comments on the information collection prior to submission to OMB.

Describe efforts to consult with persons outside the agency to learn their views on the availability of data, frequency of collection, the clarity of instructions and record keeping, disclosure, or reporting format (if any), and on the data elements to be recorded, disclosed, or reported.

A 60-Day notice for public comments was published in the Federal Register on March 10, 2011, vol. 76, no. 47, page 13264. No comments were received.

9. Explain any decision to provide any payment or gift to respondents, other than remuneration of contractors or grantees.

We do not provide any payment or gifts to respondents.

10. Describe any assurance of confidentiality provided to respondents and the basis for the assurance in statute, regulation, or agency policy.

We give respondents no assurance of confidentiality.

11. Provide additional justification for any questions of a sensitive nature.

There are no sensitive questions.

12. Provide estimates of the hour burden of the collection of information.

We estimate that 5 SAIBs yearly will recommend reporting of information and findings. The average SAIB affects about 1,120 owners/operators. Therefore, 5 SAIBs times 1,120 owners/operators per year equals 5,600 reports. These reports, requiring an average of 5 minutes each to prepare, consume 467 reporting hours. The 5-minute preparation time remains the same as in our last submission.

13. Provide an estimate of the total annual cost burden to respondents or record keepers resulting from the collection of information.

The total annualized cost to respondents is \$39,695. We base this on the 467 reporting hours times an estimated hourly rate of \$85/hour per respondent. The average cost to the respondents per SAIB per year is \$7.09 (\$39,695 divided by 5,600).

The information collection burden is a reporting burden only. SAIB record keeping is covered as follows: 14 CFR §§ 43.9, 43.11, and 91.417 require each registered owner/operator to keep records regarding the work performed on each aircraft. The records must include a description of the work performed, the date of completion of the work, and the name of the person performing the work.

14. Provide estimates of annualized cost to the Federal government.

The total estimated annual cost to the Federal government is \$106,200. We determined this cost based on time required by FAA certification engineers to review the inspection reports.

The annual estimate of 5,600 reports requires an average of 15 minutes each to review, totaling 1,400 total hours. At \$58/hour (an average engineer's pay) the total annual salary cost to the Federal government is \$81,200. The estimated annual operational and support cost to review the report is \$25,000. Adding this, the total annual cost to the Federal government is \$106,200.

15. Explain the reasons for any program changes or adjustments reported in Items 13 or 14 of the OMB Form 83-1.

The number of SAIBs issued annually fluctuates from year to year. Since Sept. 2010, only 2 SAIBs have been issued requesting reporting. However, because the workforce is now aware of the ability to request reporting via an SAIB, FAA expects the number to be about 5 per year.

16. For collection of information whose results will be published, outline plans for tabulation and publication.

We have no plans for statistical use, and/or publication of this information.

17. If seeking approval to not display the expiration date for OMB approval of the information collection, explain the reasons that display would be inappropriate.

We do not seek approval to not display the expiration date of the OMB approval.

18. Explain each exception to the certification statement identified in Item 19.

There are no exceptions.