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APPENDIX: 4

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

BULLETIN NUMBER: FSAW 97-10 (Extended)

BULLETIN TITLE: Cold Weather Servicing of Aircraft Nose
Landing Gear Struts

EFFECTIVE DATE: 03-13-97

TRACKING: NTSB Safety Recommendation A-96-166

1. SUBJECT. This bulletin outlines FAA national policy regarding adequate procedures to ensure that aircraft nose landing gear struts are serviced in accordance with the manufacturer's recommended methods during cold weather operation.

2. BACKGROUND. During an accident investigation of a hard landing of an air carrier aircraft, the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) noted that improper servicing of the aircraft's nose gear strut contributed to the accident. The investigation revealed that the air carrier failed to incorporate cold weather nose gear servicing procedures in its maintenance manual. Further, the NTSB concluded that the scope and range of jet travel and the unpredictable nature of weather systems are such that no airline can safely consider its aircraft exempt from any such weather extremes.

3. ACTION. Consistent with the foregoing discussion, principal maintenance inspectors (PMI) shall ensure that guidance for cold weather servicing of aircraft nose landing gear struts, in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions, is in place in air carrier maintenance manuals. Maintenance manuals must require implementing cold weather procedures and servicing requirements at the start of the winter season, regardless of the geographic location of air carriers

EXAMPLE: The Douglas Aircraft Company describes in the DC-9 Maintenance Manual additional cold weather

servicing requirements for nose gear struts that include changing fluid and replacing seals as required.

PMI's shall ensure contents of this bulletin are incorporated as soon as practicable.

4. INQUIRIES. This FSIB was developed by the Airworthiness-Air Transportation and Special Projects Branch, AFS-330. Questions regarding this FSIB should be directed to AFS-330, telephone 202-267-7524 or facsimile 202-267-5115.

5. EXPIRATION DATE. This bulletin expires on 05-31-01.

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