



Civil Aeronautics administration

Aviation Safety Bulletin

ASB No:92-040/m

August, 2003

Subject :

An inactive attitude to manufacturer's Alert Service Bulletin leads to a Freighter diversion due to unusual smell in the cockpit.

Background :

1. During flight, the pilot of an MD-11 freighter had sensed some abnormal smell in the cockpit and the overhead panel background light was malfunctioning. For the sake of safety, the pilot diverted to the nearest airport.
2. The causes of this event were due to:
 - (a). The abnormal smell was derived from the overheated overhead panel dimmer control. Subsequently the background light controls were inoperative.
 - (b). Boeing previously issued an Alert Service Bulletin (ASB) recommending relocation of the Dimmer to a cooler area. Though the ASB had been evaluated by the operator and it also issued an Engineering Order (EO) to perform the Dimmer relocation, it didn't finish all the aircraft by the suggested completion date of the ASB.

Recommendation :

1. Though ASB is not mandatory, the precious information provided by the manufacturer is relative to flight safety issues regarding aircraft manufacturing defects and/or in-service difficulties. Operators refer to "Air Operation Regulation" article 137, and to take necessary actions recommended by ASB IAW approved procedures.
2. Operator should expedite the execution of this ASB in relocating the affected dimmer to a cooler position.