ORDER

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION

8320. 14

9/29/81

SUBJ: PROCEDURES FOR FIELD APPROVAL OF SUPPLEMENTAL INSPECTION PROGRAMS FOR LARGE TRANSPORT CATEGORY AIRCRAFT, ADVISORY CIRCULAR (AC) 91-56

1. PURPOSE. This order provides guidance to principal maintenance inspectors implementing structural inspection programs developed in accordance with the provisions of AC 91-56, Supplemental Structural Inspection Program for Large Transport Airplanes.

2. DISTRIBUTION. This order is distributed to the branch level in the Offices of Flight Operations and Airworthiness; and to the regional Flight Standards Divisions; to the branch level at the Flight Standards National Field Office; to all Air Carrier, Flight Standards, Engineering and Manufacturing, and General Aviation District Offices, and to all International, Aeronautical Quality Assurance, and International Aviation Field Offices.

3. BACKGROUND. Advisory Circular 91-56 was developed to provide uniform guidelines for the development and implementation of supplemental structural inspection programs for the aging large transport category airplanes. These supplemental inspection documents (SID) amend current structural inspection programs and provide continuing structural inspections to ensure safe operation of older airplanes.

4. ACTION. Principal maintenance inspectors (PMI) should contact their assigned operators and advise them to submit a revised structural inspection program incorporating those areas identified in the SID. It should be recognized that each operator must make its own determination as to how the SID should be incorporated into its existing maintenance program. After receipt of the program, the PMI should assess the program and identify any significant differences between the proposal and the SID and forward a copy, through regional channels, to AWS-300. A team of engineering and maintenance specialists, chaired by a member from the Office of Airworthiness, will then evaluate the proposal for adequacy and advise the PMI of the acceptability of the program. When the program has been determined acceptable, the PMI will approve the program by amending the operator's operations specifications in accordance with Federal Aviation Regulations (FAR) Parts 121, 123, 125, or an inspection program approved under FAR Part 91.217E. In addition to the SID for the B-707/720 aircraft listed in appendix 2 of AC 91-56, the B-727 SID has been published and is now available from the Boeing Company. The B-727 document is

Distribution: A-W(WS/FO)-3; A-X(FS)-2;
AFO-500(20 copies); AAC-952(80 copies);
A-FFS-1,2,3,5,7,8(STD), A-FIA-0(LTD)

Initiated By: AWS-330

identified as the Boeing 727 Supplemental Structural Inspection Document (SSID) D6-48040. Advisory Circular 91-56, appendix 2, will be revised to include the B-727 and other applicable SID's when they become available.

J. A. PONTECORVO
Chief, Aircraft Maintenance Division
Office of Airworthiness