EASA PAD No: 09-099

EASA

NOTIFICATION OF A PROPOSAL TO ISSUE AN AIRWORTHINESS DIRECTIVE



PAD No.: 09-099

Date: 10 August 2009

Note: This Proposed Airworthiness Directive (PAD) is issued by EASA, acting in accordance with Regulation (EC) No 216/2008 on behalf of the European Community, its Member States and of the European third countries that participate in the activities of EASA under Article 66 of that Regulation.

In accordance with the EASA Continuing Airworthiness Procedures, the Executive Director is proposing the issuance of an EASA Airworthiness Directive (AD), applicable to the aeronautical product(s) identified below.

All interested persons may send their comments, referencing the PAD Number above, to the e-mail address specified in the 'Remarks' section, prior to the consultation closing date indicated.

Type Approval Holder's Name :		Type/Model designation(s):	
AIRBUS		A330 and A340 aeroplanes	
TCDS Number : EASA.A.004, EASA.A.015			
Foreign AD :	Foreign AD: Not applicable		
Supersedure : None			
ATA 34 Navigation – Airspeed Pitot Probes – Replacement			
Manufacturer(s):	Airbus (formerly Airbus Industrie)		
Applicability:	Airbus A330-201, A330-202, A330-203, A330-223, A330-243, A330-301, A330-302, A330-303, A330-321, A330-322, A330-323, A330-341, A330-342 and A330-343 aeroplanes, all serial numbers on which Airbus modification 45638 has been embodied in production or Airbus Service Bulletin (SB) A330-34-3071 has been embodied in service.		
	Airbus A340-211, A340-212, A340-213, A340-311, A340-312 and A340-313 aeroplanes, all serial numbers on which Airbus modification 45638 has been embodied in production or Airbus SB A340-34-4079 has been embodied in service.		
	Airbus A340-541, A340-542, A340-642 and A340-643 aeroplanes, all serial numbers on which Airbus modification 45638 has been embodied in production.		
Reason:	Occurrences have been reported on A330/340 family aeroplanes of airspeed indication discrepancies while flying at high altitudes in inclement weather conditions. Investigation results indicate that A330/A340 aeroplanes equipped with Thales Avionics pitot probes appear to have a greater susceptibility to adverse environmental conditions than aeroplanes equipped with Goodrich pitot probes.		
	A new Thales Pitot probe Part Number (P/N) C16195BA has been designed which improves A320 aeroplane airspeed indication behaviour in heavy rain conditions. This same pitot probe standard has been made available as optional installation on A330/A340 aeroplanes, and although this has shown		

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an improvement over the previous P/N C16195AA standard, it has not yet demonstrated the same level of robustness to withstand high-altitude ice crystals as the Goodrich P/N 0851HL probe. At this time, no other pitot probes are approved for installation on the A330/A340 family of aeroplanes. Airspeed discrepancies may lead in particular to disconnection of the autopilotand/or auto-thrust functions, and reversion to Flight Control Alternate law, which would cause an increase of pilot workload. Depending on the prevailing aeroplane altitude and weather, this condition, if not corrected, could result in reduced control of the aeroplane. For the reasons described above, this AD is a precautionary measure and requires the removal from service of all Thales Avionics P/N C16195AA pitot probes, the replacement of Thales Avionics P/N C16195BA pitot probes at positions 1 (Captain) and 3 (Stand by) with Goodrich P/N 0851HL probes and the installation at position 2 (First Officer) of a Thales Avionics pitot probe P/N C16195BA. This AD is considered to be an interim measure and further AD action cannot be excluded. [TBD: 14 days after final AD issue date] Effective Date: Required as indicated, unless already accomplished: Within the next 4 months after the effective date of this AD, accomplish the action of paragraph (1.1) or (1.2), as applicable to aeroplane configuration: (1.1) For aeroplanes fitted with Thales Avionics P/N C16195AA pitot probes (pre-mod 56702S19240), accomplish the pitot probe replacement actions as defined in paragraphs (1.1.1) and (1.1.2) of this AD: (1.1.1) In accordance with the instructions of Airbus SB A330-34-3206 Revision 01, or Airbus SB A340-34-4200 Revision 01, or Airbus SB A340-34-5068, as applicable to aeroplane model. (1.1.2) In accordance with the instructions of Airbus SB A330-34-3231, or Airbus SB A340-34-4238, or Airbus SB A340-34-5071, as applicable to aeroplane model. The resulting configuration of the aeroplane after compliance with both paragraphs (1.1.1) and (1.1.2) of this AD must be that a Required Action(s) Thales Avionics P/N C16195BA pitot probe is installed at position 2 and Compliance and Goodrich P/N 0851HL pitot probes at positions 1 and 3. Time(s): For aeroplanes fitted with Thales Avionics P/N C16195BA pitot (1.2)probes (post-mod 56702S19240): Remove the P/N C16195BA pitot probes from positions 1 and 3, and install Goodrich P/N 0851HL pitot probes at positions 1 and 3, in accordance with the instructions of Airbus SB A330-34-3231, or Airbus SB A340-34-4238, or Airbus SB A340-34-5071, as applicable to aeroplane model. Replacement of Thales Avionics P/N C16195BA pitot probes at all three positions with Goodrich P/N 0851HL pitot probes in accordance with the instructions of Airbus approved data is an alternative method to comply with the requirements of this AD. After [insert date; 4 months after the effective date of this AD], do not install a Thales Avionics P/N C16195AA pitot probe at any position on an aeroplane. After [insert date: 4 months after the effective date of this AD], do not install a Thales Avionics P/N C16195BA pitot probe at position 1 or 3 on an aeroplane.

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Ref. Publications:	Airbus SB A330-34-3206 Revision 01 dated 12 November 2008. Airbus SB A340-34-4200 Revision 01 dated 12 November 2008.	
	Airbus SB A340-34-5068 original issues dated 01 December 2008.	
	Airbus SB A330-34-3231 at original issue (to be issued).	
	Airbus SB A340-34-4238 at original issue (to be issued).	
	Airbus SB A340-34-5071 at original issue (to be issued).	
	The use of later approved revisions of these documents is acceptable for compliance with the requirements of this AD.	
Remarks :	 This Proposed AD will be closed for consultation on 07 September 2009. Enquiries regarding this PAD should be referred to the Airworthiness Directives, Safety Management & Research Section, Certification Directorate, EASA. E-mail ADS@easa.europa.eu. 	
	For any question concerning the technical content of the requirements in this PAD, please contact: AIRBUS – Airworthiness Office – EAL; E-mail: A330-A340@airbus.com.	

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