

AIRWORTHINESS DIRECTIVE

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Inspection and/or modifications described below are mandatory. No person may operate a product to which this Airworthiness Directive applies except in accordance with the requirements of this Airworthiness Directive.

Translation of 'Consigne de Navigabilité' ref. : 2000-533-328(B)
In case of any difficulty, reference should be made to the French original issue.

AIRBUS INDUSTRIE

A300-600 aircraft

Centre wing box - Angle fittings at frame 47 (ATA 57)

APPLICABILITY:

AIRBUS INDUSTRIE A300-600 aircraft, all certified models, except for A300F4-622R, all serial numbers.

REASONS:

Following the detection of cracks on in-service aircraft which had then accumulated about 20,000 flights, the purpose of Airworthiness Directive (AD) 94-241-170(B) of November 9th, 1994 was to implement a mandatory programme of repetitive inspections on fuselage frame 47 at the last fasteners of the angle fitting of the wing box (holes H and I located on the web / vertical section of the angle fitting).

Later inspection results have modified the inspection programme rendered mandatory by AD 1999-147-279(B) (redefinition of the interval and threshold values - extension of the inspection area to holes K, L, M and N also located on the angle fitting web).

New crack findings and investigations revealed:

- for the baseplate/horizontal section of the angle fitting, the need to extend the inspection programme to holes A, B, C, D, E, F, G, P, Q, S and T,
- for the angle fitting web, the fatigue sensitivity of other holes (holes Y, U, V, W and X) on a series of aircraft (MSN 0726 to 0794 incl.) on which AIRBUS INDUSTRIE modification No. 10155 has not been correctly embodied in production.

This AD takes the last findings into account, defines new inspection programmes and introduces a modification to the fastener holes.

ACTIONS:

1. Angle fitting web (vertical face) inspection programme:

At the threshold and following the instructions defined in AIRBUS INDUSTRIE Service Bulletin (SB) A300-57-6049 Revision 4, perform an inspection of holes H, I, K, L, M and N (as well as holes Y, U, V, W and X for aircraft MSN 0726 to 0794 incl.).

Aircraft approaching the inspection threshold on April 17, 1999 (effective date of AD 1999-147-279(B) at original issue), must have been inspected in accordance with paragraph 1.A.(2) - Grace Period of SB A300-57-6049 Revision 4 (taking the effective date of AD 1999-147-279(B) at original issue as the reference date).

Depending on the results of the previous inspection and the corrective actions taken, repeat the inspection in accordance with the instructions and intervals defined in SB A300-57-6049 Revision 4.

Inform the aircraft manufacturer of all inspection results, whatever they may be.

2. Angle fitting baseplate (horizontal face) inspection programme:

At the threshold defined in SB A300-57-6086 or within 1,500 flights following the effective date of this AD, whichever occurs later, perform an inspection of holes A, B, C, D, E, F, G, P, Q, S and T in accordance with the instructions defined in SB A300-57-6086.

For aircraft which have exceeded the predefined threshold by more than 2,000 flights on the effective date of this AD, perform this inspection within the 750 flights following the effective date of this AD.

Depending on the results of the previous inspection and the corrective actions taken, repeat the inspection in accordance with the instructions and intervals defined in SB A300-57-6086.

Inform the aircraft manufacturer of all inspection results, whatever they may be.

3. Angle fitting modification programme:

Before accumulation of 15,100 flights or 38,900 flight hours, whichever occurs first, perform cold expansion of the angle fitting fastener holes, in accordance with the instructions of SB A300-57-6050 Revision 2.

Aircraft approaching or exceeding the predefined threshold value on the effective date of this AD must be modified according to the grace period defined in paragraphs 1.B.(4).(a) and (b) of SB A300-57-6050 Revision 2, from the effective date of this AD.

REF.: AIRBUS INDUSTRIE Service Bulletins A300-57-6049 Revision 4,
A300-57-6086 and A300-57-6050 Revision 2
Any later approved revision of these SBs is acceptable.

This AD replaces AD 1999-147-279(B), which is cancelled by its Revision 2.

EFFECTIVE DATE : JANUARY 06, 2001