

AIRWORTHINESS DIRECTIVE

released by DIRECTION GENERALE DE L'AVIATION CIVILE

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. : 2001-249(B)
In case of any difficulty, reference should be made to the French original issue.

AIRBUS INDUSTRIE

A320 aircraft

Wing - Inspection of the rear spar (ATA 57)

APPLICABILITY:

AIRBUS INDUSTRIE A320 aircraft, all certified models, all serial numbers, without AIRBUS INDUSTRIE modification 24591 or AIRBUS INDUSTRIE Service Bulletin A320-57-1089.

REASONS:

Airworthiness Directive (AD) 1999-264-135(B) described an inspection of the rear spar to detect fatigue cracks that could affect the structural integrity of the aircraft.

The threshold and the interval figures stated in the AD 1999-264-135(B) were defined on the basis of full-scale fatigue tests. Since then, a survey, carried out on the A320 family fleet, has highlighted some differences between the mission parameters of in service aircraft and those initially considered. The differences are mainly on the weight of fuel at landing and on the zero fuel weight, which are higher than those defined for the analysis of the fatigue related tasks.

This has led to an adjustment of the A320 family reference fatigue mission. Consequently, revised threshold and intervals for the accomplishment of this inspection, expressed in flight cycles (FC) and in flight hours (FH), have been introduced.

ACTIONS AND COMPLIANCE:

The following actions are rendered mandatory from the effective date of this Airworthiness Directive:

1. For aircraft MSN 0003 to 0021 included:

Within 12,000 flight cycles from first flight, modify the rear spar in accordance with AIRBUS INDUSTRIE Service Bulletin A320-57-1004.

2. For aircraft MSN 0002 to 0051 included:

Within 12,000 flight cycles from first flight, modify the wing rear spar pintle and retraction jack fittings in accordance with AIRBUS INDUSTRIE Service Bulletin A320-57-1060.

3. For aircraft without AIRBUS INDUSTRIE modifications 20740, 20741 (included in modification 21999) and 20796, but with AIRBUS INDUSTRIE Service Bulletins A320-57-1004 and A320-57-1060:

Within 12,000 flight cycles or 22,400 flight hours, whichever occurs first, from the embodiment of AIRBUS INDUSTRIE Service Bulletins A320-57-1004 and A320-57-1060, perform the inspection described in the AIRBUS INDUSTRIE Service Bulletin A320-57-1088. Repeat the inspection at intervals not to exceed 3,600 flight cycles or 6,700 flight hours, whichever occurs first. In case of crack findings, contact AIRBUS INDUSTRIE for a repair solution.

4. For aircraft with AIRBUS INDUSTRIE modification 20740 and AIRBUS INDUSTRIE Service Bulletin A320-57-1060, and for aircraft with AIRBUS INDUSTRIE modifications 20740, 20741 (included in modification 21999) and 20796:

- 4.1. Within 17,300 flight cycles or 32,300 flight hours from first flight, whichever occurs first, perform the inspection of the wing rear spar described in the Service Bulletin A320-57-1088 Part A. In case of crack findings, contact AIRBUS INDUSTRIE for a repair solution.

For aircraft having exceeded 29,300 flight hours, the following accomplishment timescales are applicable:

- Either 3,000 flight hours from the effective date of this AD, without exceeding 17,300 flight cycles from first flight,
- or
- 9,000 flight hours from the effective date of this AD, without exceeding 15,500 flight cycles, or 41,700 flight hours from first flight, whichever occurs first.

- 4.2. Within 20,000 flight cycles or 37,300 flight hours from first flight, whichever occurs first, perform the inspection of the wing rear spar described in the Service Bulletin A320-57-1088 Part B. In case of crack findings, contact AIRBUS INDUSTRIE for a repair solution.

- 4.3. Repeat the inspections of the wing rear spar described in the Service Bulletin A320-57-1088 Part A and Part B at intervals not to exceed 3,600 flight cycles, or 6,700 flight hours, whichever occurs first. In case of crack finding(s), contact AIRBUS INDUSTRIE for repair solution.

Note: Total application of AIRBUS INDUSTRIE Service Bulletin A320-57-1089 cancels the requirements of this AD.

REF.: AIRBUS INDUSTRIE Service Bulletins :
A320-57-1004
A320-57-1060
A320-57-1088
A320-57-1089
(Any further approved revision of these SBs is acceptable)

This Airworthiness Directive replaces AD 1999-264-135(B) which is cancelled by its Revision 1.

EFFECTIVE DATE : JULY 07, 2001