

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. : 2002-342(B)
In case of any difficulty, reference should be made to the French original issue.

AIRBUS

A320 aircraft

Wing - Inspection of the center wing box bottom panel (ATA 57)

APPLICABILITY:

A320 AIRBUS aircraft models -111, -211, -212, and -231 all manufacturing serial numbers except aircraft on which AIRBUS modification 22418 has been embodied in production (or AIRBUS Service Bulletin (SB) A320-57-1043 in service).

REASONS:

The purpose of Airworthiness Directive (AD) 97-309-104(B) was to mandate high frequency eddy current inspection of the center wing box bottom panel between frames 41 and 42.

The threshold and the interval figures 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 average flight duration, 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, the threshold and intervals related to the accomplishment of this inspection have been revised and a new threshold figure expressed in flight hours has been introduced.

COMPLIANCE:

The following measures are rendered mandatory on the effective date of this AD:

1. Unless already accomplished, at the latest of the following thresholds:

- before accumulation of 13,200 flights or 39,700 flight hours whichever comes first,
- or
- within 3,500 flights from the effective date of this AD but without exceeding the accumulation of 20,000 flights since first flight,

perform a high frequency eddy current inspection of the center wing box bottom panel and apply all necessary corrective actions in accordance with SB A320-57-1082 Revision 3.

n/GH

June 26, 2002

AIRBUS
A320 aircraft

2002-342(B)

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2. Repeat this inspection and apply all necessary corrective actions in accordance with the intervals and with the instructions given in SB A320-57-1082 Revision 3.

For aircraft on which the latest inspection has been carried out as per SB A320-57-1082 original issue, revision 1 or revision 2, a grace period of 1,800 flights from the effective date of this AD is allowed for the accomplishment of the next inspection but without exceeding the accumulation of 7,500 flights since the latest inspection.

No additional inspection is required:

- on aircraft repaired in accordance with the instructions given in SB A320-57-1082,
- after total application of SB A320-57-1043.

REF.: AIRBUS Service Bulletin A320-57-1082 Revision 3
AIRBUS Service Bulletin A320-57-1043
(Any later approved revision of these SB's is acceptable).

This AD replaces AD 97-309-104(B) which is cancelled.

EFFECTIVE DATE : JULY 06, 2002