

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. : 2003-146(B)
In case of any difficulty, reference should be made to the French original issue.

AIRBUS

A319 and A320 aircraft

Fuselage - Inspection of the keel beam side panels (ATA 53)

1. APPLICABILITY:

AIRBUS A319 and A320 all certified models and all serial numbers except aircraft having received in production modification No. 30355.

2. REASONS:

During certification structural fatigue tests, structural damages (cracks) have been found on keel beam side panels.

Cracks were observed on both sides of the keel beam:

- Around the rivets below the center wing box between FR40 and 42
- And in part of the area of the upper elliptical cut out forward of FR41

Such damage could affect the aircraft structural integrity.

3. COMPLIANCE:

3.1. For aircraft that have never been inspected according to the SSI 53-31-42 task as defined in the A319/A320/A321 MRB report:

- before accumulation of 24,200 flights or 48,400 flight hours whichever occurs first or
- within 3,500 flights from the effective date of this Airworthiness Directive (AD),

whichever of these 2 thresholds occurs later,

perform a detail visual inspection of the keel beam side panels of the fuselage and apply all necessary corrective actions in accordance with AIRBUS Service Bulletin (SB) A320-53-1060.

3.2. For aircraft that have already been inspected according to the SSI 53-31-42 task as defined in the A319/A320/A321 MRB report, within 4,300 flights or 9,600 flights hours that follow the latest SSI 53-31-42 inspection, whichever occurs first, perform a detail visual inspection of the keel beam side panels of the fuselage and apply all necessary corrective actions in accordance with SB A320-53-1060.

3.3. Depending of the results of the inspection as defined in paragraphs 3.1. and 3.2. of this AD, repeat the inspection and apply all necessary corrective actions at the intervals defined in SB A320-53-1060.

Application of this AD supersedes the SSI 53-31-42 task as defined in the A319/A320/A321 ALI reference AI/SE-M4/95A.0252/96 issue 05.

REF.: AIRBUS Service Bulletin A320-53-1060
(Any later approved revision of this SB is acceptable)
AIRBUS A319/A320/A321 ALI AI/SE-M4/95A.0252/96 issue 5 dated April 05, 2002.

EFFECTIVE DATE : APRIL 26, 2003