Airworthiness Directive

AD No.: 2017-0186

Issued: 21 September 2017

Note: This Airworthiness Directive (AD) is issued by EASA, acting in accordance with Regulation (EC) 216/2008 on behalf of the European Union, its Member States and of the European third countries that participate in the activities of EASA under Article 66 of that Regulation.

This AD is issued in accordance with Regulation (EU) 748/2012, Part 21.A.3B. In accordance with Regulation (EU) 1321/2014 Annex I, Part M.A.301, the continuing airworthiness of an aircraft shall be ensured by accomplishing any applicable ADs. Consequently, no person may operate an aircraft to which an AD applies, except in accordance with the requirements of that AD, unless otherwise specified by the Agency [Regulation (EU) 1321/2014 Annex I, Part M.A.303] or agreed with the Authority of the State of Registry [Regulation (EC) 216/2008, Article 14(4) exemption].

Design Approval Holder's Name:
AIRBUS

Type/Model designation(s):
A380 aeroplanes

Effective Date: 05 October 2017

TCDS Number(s): EASA.A.110

Foreign AD: Not applicable

Supersedure: None

ATA 24 – Electrical Power – Ram Air Turbine Uplock Assembly – Modification

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Manufacturer(s):
Airbus

Applicability:
Airbus A380-841, A380-842 and A380-861 aeroplanes, all manufacturer serial numbers, except those that have embodied Airbus modification (mod) 73220 in production.

Reason:
Moisture ingress was reportedly found in the deployment solenoid of the Ram Air Turbine (RAT) uplock assembly. The results of the investigations revealed that moisture intrusion was found at multiple locations, partially attributed to an inadequate o-ring installation between the solenoid and uplock housing.

This condition, if not corrected, could lead to the loss of insulation resistance, preventing RAT deployment, possibly resulting in loss of an emergency electrical generation device and consequent reduced control of an aeroplane.

To address this potential unsafe condition, Airbus developed production mod 73220 to introduce an improved RAT deployment solenoid, providing better protection against moisture ingress, and issued Service Bulletin (SB) A380-24-8058 (hereafter referred to as 'the SB' in this AD) to provide modification instructions.

For the reasons described above, this AD requires modification of the RAT uplock assembly and re-identification of the RAT.

Required Action(s) and Compliance Time(s):

Required as indicated, unless accomplished previously:

Note 1: For the purpose of this AD, Group 1 aeroplanes are those that have a RAT Part Number (P/N) 1704287G installed. Group 2 aeroplanes are those that have a different P/N RAT installed.

Part Replacement:

(1) Group 1 aeroplanes: Within 24 months after the effective date of this AD, accomplish concurrently the actions as required by paragraphs (1.1) and (1.2) of this AD, in accordance with the instructions of the SB.

(1.1) Modify the RAT installed on the aeroplane by replacing the uplock assembly with an improved part.

(1.2) Re-identify the modified RAT with the new part number.

Part installation:

(2) Do not install a RAT P/N 1704287G on any aeroplane, as required by paragraph (2.1) or (2.2) of this AD, as applicable.

(2.1) Group 1 aeroplanes: After modification of an aeroplane as required by paragraph (1) of this AD.

(2.2) Group 2 aeroplanes: From the effective date of this AD.

Ref. Publications:

Airbus SB A380-24-8058 original issue dated 25 September 2015.

The use of later approved revisions of this document is acceptable for compliance with the requirements of this AD.

Remarks:

1. If requested and appropriately substantiated, EASA can approve Alternative Methods of Compliance for this AD.

2. This AD was posted on 10 August 2017 as PAD 17-112 for consultation until 07 September 2017. The Comment Response Document can be found in the EASA Safety Publications Tool, in the compressed (zipped) file attached to the record for this AD.

3. Enquiries regarding this AD should be referred to the EASA Safety Information Section, Certification Directorate. E-mail: ADs@easa.europa.eu.

4. For any question concerning the technical content of the requirements in this AD, please contact: AIRBUS - EIANA (Airworthiness Office), Telephone: +33 562 110 253; Fax: +33 562 110 307, E-mail: account.airworth-A380@airbus.com.