

Airworthiness Directive

AD No.: 2019-0315

Issued: 23 December 2019

Note: This Airworthiness Directive (AD) is issued by EASA, acting in accordance with Regulation (EU) 2018/1139 on behalf of the European Union, its Member States and of the European third countries that participate in the activities of EASA under Article 129 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 (EU) 2018/1139, Article 71 exemption].

Design Approval Holder's Name:

AIRBUS

Type/Model designation(s):

A330 aeroplanes

Effective Date: 06 January 2020

TCDS Number(s): EASA.A.004

Foreign AD: Not applicable

Supersedure: None

ATA 53 – Fuselage – Frame 67 Stringer 44 Right Hand – Inspection
Manufacturer(s):

Airbus, formerly Airbus Industrie

Applicability:

Airbus A330-201, A330-202, A330-203, A330-223, A330-223F, A330-243, A330-243F, A330-301, A330-302, A330-303, A330-321, A330-322, A330-323, A330-341, A330-342 and A330-343 aeroplanes, all manufacturer serial numbers.

Definitions:

The AOT: Airbus Alert Operators Transmission (AOT) A53L014-19.

Affected area: Stringer (STR) 44 right-hand (RH) side at fuselage frame (FR) 67.

Airbus date of manufacture: The date of transfer of title (ownership) of the aeroplane upon delivery by Airbus to the first operator.

The correct NTM procedure: High-frequency eddy current (HFEC) inspection as specified in Appendix 1 of the AOT, or as specified in the applicable Airbus Non-destructive Testing Manual (NTM), task 53-40-17, that contains the content of Appendix 1 of the AOT. Appendix 1 of the AOT also provides correct written instructions and an illustration showing the correct location for the inspection.

Reason:

A review of NTM task 53-40-17 procedure revealed that STR44 RH at fuselage FR67 is incorrectly shown at location STR43 RH of the figure 1 – Illustration of the NTM, whereas the written description provides correct instructions. Consequently, the inspection of the affected area could inadvertently have been accomplished at the wrong location and, as a result, potential damage in the affected area, as defined in this AD, could have remained undetected.

This condition, if not detected and corrected, could affect the structural integrity of the affected area, leading to in-flight loss of the bulk cargo door, possibly resulting in damage to the aeroplane and injury to persons on the ground.

To address this potential unsafe condition, Airbus issued the AOT to provide instructions for repetitive detailed inspections (DET) until accomplishment of the correct NTM procedure.

For the reasons described above, this AD requires repetitive DET of the affected area, as defined in this AD, and, depending on findings, accomplishment of applicable corrective action(s).

It is expected that correction of the illustration as attached to the AOT as Appendix 1 will be included to the revision of NTM to be released in April 2020. The description of the related ALS Part 2 tasks 53-40-17-01 and 53-40-17-02 remains unchanged.

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

Required as indicated, unless accomplished previously:

Inspections:

- (1) Within the compliance time as defined in Table 1 of this AD and, thereafter, at intervals not exceeding 150 flight cycles (FC), accomplish a DET of the affected area, as defined in this AD, in accordance with the instructions of the AOT.

Table 1 – DET threshold

| Compliance Time (A or B, whichever occurs later) | |
|---|---|
| A | Before exceeding 22 200 FC since Airbus date of manufacture |
| B | Within 250 FC or 2 months, whichever occurs first after the effective date of this AD |

Corrective Action:

- (2) If, during any DET as required by paragraph (1) of this AD, any discrepancy is detected, before next flight, contact Airbus for approved instructions and accomplish those instructions accordingly.

Alternative Inspection:

- (3) Accomplishment on an aeroplane of the correct NTM procedure, as defined in this AD, is an acceptable method to comply with the initial DET and the corrective action(s) as required by paragraph (1) and (2) of this AD, for that aeroplane.



Terminating Action:

- (4) Accomplishment on an aeroplane of the correct NTM procedure, as defined in this AD, constitutes terminating action for the repetitive DET as required by paragraph (1) of this AD for that aeroplane.
- (5) Accomplishment of corrective action(s) on an aeroplane, as required by paragraph (2) of this AD, does not constitute terminating action for the repetitive DET as required by paragraph (1) of this AD for that aeroplane, unless the Airbus instructions specify otherwise.

Ref. Publications:

Airbus AOT A53L014-19 original issue dated 17 December 2019.

The use of later approved revisions of the above-mentioned 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. Based on the required actions and the compliance time, EASA have decided to issue a Final AD with Request for Comments, postponing the public consultation process until after publication.
3. Enquiries regarding this AD should be referred to the EASA Programming and Continued Airworthiness Information Section, Certification Directorate. E-mail: ADs@easa.europa.eu.
4. Information about any failures, malfunctions, defects or other occurrences, which may be similar to the unsafe condition addressed by this AD, and which may occur, or have occurred on a product, part or appliance not affected by this AD, can be reported to the [EU aviation safety reporting system](#).
5. For any question concerning the technical content of the requirements in this AD, please contact: AIRBUS – EIAL (Airworthiness Office), E-mail: airworthiness.A330-A340@airbus.com.

