



Notification of a proposal to issue an Airworthiness Directive

PAD No.: 16-049

Issued: 05 April 2016

Note: This Proposed Airworthiness Directive (PAD) 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.

In accordance with the EASA Continuing Airworthiness Procedures, the Executive Director is proposing the issuance of an EASA Airworthiness Directive (AD), applicable to the aeronautical product(s) identified below.

All interested persons may send their comments, referencing the PAD Number above, to the e-mail address specified in the 'Remarks' section, prior to the consultation date indicated.

Design Approval Holder's Name:

AIRBUS

Type/Model designation(s):

A321 aeroplanes

Effective Date: [TBD - standard: 14 days after AD issue date]

TCDS Number(s): EASA.A.064

Foreign AD: Not applicable

Supersedure: None

ATA 53 – Fuselage – Frame 35.2A - Inspection

Manufacturer(s):

Airbus (formerly Airbus Industrie)

Applicability:

Airbus A321-111, A321-112, A321-131, A321-211, A321-212, A321-213, A321-231 and A321-232 aeroplanes, all manufacturer serial numbers.

Reason:

Following a new full scale fatigue test campaign on the A321 airframe, in the context of the A321 extended service goal, it was identified that cracks could develop on holes at frame (FR) 35.2A between stringers (STR) 22 and STR 23 on right hand (RH) and left hand (LH) sides.

This condition, if not detected and corrected, could reduce the structural integrity of the fuselage.



Prompted by these findings, Airbus developed an inspection programme, published in Service Bulletin (SB) A320-53-1315 and SB A320-53-1316, each containing instructions for a different location.

For the reasons described above, this AD requires repetitive special detailed (rototest) inspections (SDI) of the affected holes and, depending on findings, accomplishment of a repair.

This AD is considered an interim action, pending development of a permanent solution.

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

Required as indicated, unless accomplished previously:

- (1) Within the compliance time specified in Table 1 of this AD, as applicable, and, thereafter, at intervals not to exceed 21 500 flight cycles (FC) or 43 100 flight hours (FH), whichever occurs first, accomplish a SDI of the affected holes at FR35.2A between STR22 and STR23 at the locations as specified in Table 2 of this AD and in accordance with the instructions of the applicable Airbus SB as defined in Table 2 of this AD.

Table 1 – Inspection Threshold

Compliance Time (whichever occurs later, A or B)	
A	Before exceeding 25 400 FC or 50 900 FH, whichever occurs first since aeroplane first flight
B	Within 2 500 FC after the effective date of this AD

Table 2 – Inspection Locations and Applicable SB

Location	SB
FR 35.2A RH side	A320-53-1315
FR 35.2A LH side	A320-53-1316

- (2) If, during any SDI as required by paragraph (1) of this AD, any crack is found, before next flight, contact Airbus to obtain approved repair instructions and accomplish those instructions accordingly.
- (3) Repair of an aeroplane as required by paragraph (2) of this AD does not constitute terminating action for the repetitive SDI as required by paragraph (1) of this AD for that aeroplane.

Ref. Publications:

Airbus SB A320-53-1315 original issue dated 13 January 2016.

Airbus SB A320-53-1316 original issue dated 13 January 2016.

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



Remarks:

1. This Proposed AD will be closed for consultation on 19 April 2016.
2. Enquiries regarding this PAD should be referred to the EASA Safety Information Section, Certification Directorate. E-mail: ADs@easa.europa.eu.
3. For any question concerning the technical content of the requirements in this PAD, please contact: AIRBUS – Airworthiness Office – EIAS; Fax +33 5 61 93 44 51; E-mail: account.airworth-eas@airbus.com.

