



Notification of a proposal to issue an Airworthiness Directive

PAD No.: 16-156

Issued: 07 November 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):

A380 aeroplanes

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

TCDS Number(s): EASA.A.110

Foreign AD: Not applicable

Supersedure: None

ATA 52 – Doors – Auxiliary Wing Landing Gear Door – Inspection

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) 76693 in production.

Reason:

In 2015, EASA issued AD 2015-0208 (which superseded AD 2014-0171R1) to address an unsafe condition affecting the forward (FWD) hinge fittings of A380 centre body landing gear doors (BLGD). Within the framework of the investigation, it was also determined that hinge fittings attached to auxiliary wing landing gear doors (WLGD) have geometrical features, similar to those of the centre BLGD hinge fittings, and are therefore also subject to reduced fatigue life.

This condition, if not detected and corrected, could lead to reduced structural integrity of the auxiliary WLGD hinge fittings, possibly resulting in in-flight loss of an auxiliary WLGD, and consequent injury to persons on the ground.



To address this unsafe condition, Airbus developed production mod 76693 to reinforce the auxiliary WLGD hinge fittings, and issued Service Bulletin (SB) A380-52-8165 to provide inspection instructions for in-service pre-mod aeroplanes.

For the reasons described above, this AD requires accomplishment of repetitive special detailed inspections (SDI) using a High Frequency Eddy Current (HFEC) testing method and a detailed inspection (DET) of the right hand (RH) and left hand (LH) auxiliary WLGD hinge fittings and, depending on findings, accomplishment of applicable corrective action(s).

This AD is considered to be an interim measure and, depending on results of the on-going investigation, further AD action may follow.

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

Required as indicated, unless accomplished previously:

- (1) Within the threshold and, thereafter, at intervals not to exceed the values defined in Table 1 of this AD, as applicable to aeroplane configuration, accomplish concurrently an SDI and DET of the RH and LH auxiliary WLGD inboard hinge fittings and their corresponding counter-fittings in accordance with the instructions of Airbus SB A380-52-8165.

Table 1: Auxiliary WLGD Inspection

Aeroplane configuration	Threshold	Interval
Pre-mod 69807	Before exceeding 4 800 flight cycles (FC) since aeroplane first flight, or within 380 FC after the effective date of this AD, whichever occurs later	2 000 FC
Post-mod 69807	Before exceeding 4 800 FC since aeroplane first flight, or within 250 FC after the effective date of this AD, whichever occurs later	2 800 FC

- (2) If, during any inspection (SDI or DET) as required by paragraph (1) of this AD, any crack is detected, before next flight, replace the affected auxiliary WLGD hinge fitting with a serviceable part in accordance with the instructions of Airbus SB A380-52-8165.
- (3) Replacement of the auxiliary WLGD hinge fitting, as required by paragraph (2) of this AD, does not constitute terminating action for repetitive inspections (SDI or DET), as required by paragraph (1) of this AD.
- (4) Within 30 days after accomplishment of any inspection (SDI or DET) as required by paragraph (1) of this AD, report the inspection results (including no findings) to Airbus in accordance with the instructions of Airbus SB A380-52-8165.



Ref. Publications:

Airbus SB A380-52-8165 original issue dated 26 October 2016.

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

Remarks:

1. This Proposed AD will be closed for consultation on 05 December 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 - EIANA (Airworthiness Office), Telephone : +33 562 110 253; Fax: +33 562 110 307, E-mail: account.airworth-A380@airbus.com.

