



Notification of a proposal to issue an Airworthiness Directive

PAD No.: 16-171

Issued: 14 December 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 53 – Fuselage – Belly Fairing – Inspection / Repair / Replacement

Manufacturer(s):

Airbus

Applicability:

Airbus A380-841, A380-842 and A380-861 aeroplanes, all manufacturer serial numbers.

Reason:

It has been reported that, during scheduled maintenance checks accomplished by Airbus A380 operators, cracks were found on the beam members at the belly fairing (BF) centre aft section at frame (FR) 65 and FR69 near junction with stringer (STRG) 2 on the left-hand (LH) and right-hand (RH) side. Investigation results revealed the potential existence of additional stresses in the area, due to the contact of the inner body landing gear door with the surrounding panel of the BF (seal area). These stresses may likely have initiated the detected cracks.

This condition, if not detected and corrected, could lead to a structural failure, adversely affecting the structural integrity of the aeroplane.

To address this potential unsafe condition, Airbus issued Service Bulletin (SB) A380-53-8128, providing inspection instructions.



For the reasons described above, this AD requires repetitive inspections of the belly fairing area at FR65 and FR69 at the STRG2 joints on the LH and RH side (hereafter referred to as 'the affected area' in this AD), and, depending on findings, repair or replacement of the affected parts.

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

Required as indicated, unless accomplished previously:

- (1) Within 1 200 flight cycles (FC) or 8 800 flight hours (FH), whichever occurs first after the effective date of this AD and, thereafter, at intervals not to exceed 1 200 FC or 8 800 FH, whichever occurs first, accomplish a detailed inspection (DET) of the belly fairing area at FR65 and FR69 at STRG2 joint on the LH and RH side, in accordance with the instructions of Airbus SB A380-53-8128.
- (2) If, during any DET as required by paragraph (1) of this, any crack is found, before next flight, comply with the requirements of either paragraph (2.1) or (2.2) of this AD, in accordance with the instructions of Airbus SB A380-53-8128:
 - (2.1) Repair the damaged structural part(s) of FR65 or FR69, as applicable.
 - (2.2) Replace the FR65 or FR69, as applicable, between STRG2 LH and STRG2 RH, with a serviceable part.
- (3) Replacement on an aeroplane of the FR65 or FR69 between STRG 2LH and STRG 2RH, as applicable, as required by paragraph (2.2) of this AD, does not constitute terminating action for the repetitive DET as required by paragraph (1) of this AD for that aeroplane.
- (4) Repair of any affected area on an aeroplane (without deviation from drawings), as required by paragraph (2.1) of this AD, constitutes terminating action for the repetitive DET as required by paragraph (1) of this AD for the repaired area on that aeroplane.

Ref. Publications:

Airbus SB A380-53-8128 original issue, dated 01 December 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 11 January 2017.
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 SAS - EIANA (Airworthiness Office), Telephone : +33 562 110 253; Fax: +33 562 110 307, E-mail: account.airworth-A380@airbus.com.

