



# Notification of a proposal to issue an Airworthiness Directive

**PAD No.: 17-045**

**Issued: 03 April 2017**

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):**

A330 aeroplanes

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

**TCDS Numbers:** EASA.A.004

**Foreign AD:** Not applicable

**Supersedure:** None

## ATA 55 – Horizontal Stabilizer – Center Box Top Skin – Inspection / Repair

### Manufacturer(s):

Airbus (formerly Airbus Industrie)

### Applicability:

Airbus A330-301, A330-321, A330-322 and A330-342 aeroplanes, manufacturer serial numbers (MSN) 0012, 0017, 0030, 0037, 0045, 0050, 0060, 0062, 0064, 0065, 0071, 0082, 0083, 0098, 0099, 0102, 0106, 0109, 0112, 0132 and 0177.

### Reason:

Cracks were found in the horizontal stabilizer (HS) centre box (CB) top skin of an aeroplane in pre-modification 41330 configuration. The cracks were initiated at the upper flange corner at Rib 3 rear spar area on left hand side of the CB.

This condition, if not detected and corrected, could lead to reduced structural integrity of the HS CB of the aeroplane.

To address this unsafe condition, Airbus published Service Bulletin (SB) A330-55-3046 to provide inspection instructions for the affected area.



For the reason described above, this AD requires a one-time special detailed inspection (SDI) of the HS CB top skin integral flange area and, depending on findings, accomplishment of applicable corrective action(s). This AD also requires reporting of the inspection results, including no findings, to Airbus.

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

Required as indicated, unless accomplished previously:

**Inspection:**

- (1) Within 6 months after the effective date of this AD, accomplish an SDI of the HS CB top skin integral flange area in accordance with the instructions of Airbus SB A330-55-3046.

**Corrective action(s):**

- (2) If, during the SDI as required by paragraph (1) of this AD, any crack is found, before next flight, contact Airbus for approved repair instructions and, within the compliance time specified in those instructions, accomplish those instructions accordingly.

**Reporting:**

- (3) If, during the inspection as required by paragraph (1) of this AD, no discrepancy is detected, within 30 days after that inspection or within 30 days after the effective date of this AD, whichever occurs later, as applicable, report the results to Airbus in accordance with the instructions of Airbus SB A330-55-3046.

**Conditional Credit:**

- (4) Inspections and corrective action(s) on an aeroplane, and reporting of inspection results, accomplished before the effective date of this AD in accordance with the instructions of Airbus Maintenance Planning Document Task 551016-01-6 (which refers to AMM task 55-11-00-200-808), as applicable to aeroplane model, are acceptable to comply with the requirements of this AD for that aeroplane, provided the actions were accomplished after the aeroplane exceeded 20 000 Flight Cycles since first flight.

**Ref. Publications:**

Airbus SB A330-55-3046 original issue dated 03 March 2017.

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 17 April 2017.
2. Enquiries regarding this PAD should be referred to the EASA Safety Information Section, Certification Directorate. E-mail: [ADs@easa.europa.eu](mailto:ADs@easa.europa.eu).
3. For any question concerning the technical content of the requirements in this PAD, please contact: AIRBUS – EIAL (Airworthiness Office), E-mail: [airworthiness.A330-A340@airbus.com](mailto:airworthiness.A330-A340@airbus.com).

