



Notification of a Proposal to issue an Airworthiness Directive

PAD No.: 17-106

Issued: 03 August 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):

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 – Frame 94 Upper Shell – 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) 74725 in production.

Reason:

During fatigue testing, damage was detected at the frame (FR) 94 upper shell, in the location of the frame-stringer junctions between stringers (STGR) 1 and 18, on the left hand (LH) and right hand (RH) sides.

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

To address this potential unsafe condition, Airbus issued Service Bulletin (SB) A380-53-8133 to provide instructions for repetitive inspections of the affected fuselage structural elements and, depending on findings, corrective action(s). Airbus also developed production mod 74725 to improve the fatigue resistance of the fuselage structure in the area of the FR94 upper shell, and mod 74738 and 76151 available for in-service aeroplanes through Airbus SB A380-53-8078.



For the reasons described above, this AD requires repetitive detailed inspections (DET) and high frequency eddy current (HFEC) inspections at the frame 94 upper shell, and, depending on findings, accomplishment of applicable corrective action(s). This AD also introduces an optional modification as terminating action for the repetitive inspections required by this AD.

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

Required as indicated, unless accomplished previously:

Inspection(s):

- (1) Before exceeding 7 600 flight cycles (FC) since the aeroplane first flight, and, thereafter, at intervals not to exceed 3 800 FC, accomplish a DET in the area of skin-stringer connections (shearweb connections and cleat) from STGR 1 to 18, LH and RH side, at FR94 in accordance with the instructions of Airbus SB A380-53-8133.

Corrective Action(s):

- (2) If, during any DET as required by paragraph (1) of this AD, no damaged fastener is detected, before next flight, accomplish an HFEC inspection of the glare skin panel and bend radius of aluminium shearwebs in locations of STGR 1, 5, 11, 13, 15, 16 and 18, LH and RH side, at FR94 in accordance with the instructions of Airbus SB A380-53-8133.
- (3) If, during any inspection (DET or HFEC) as required by paragraph (1) or (2) of this AD, damaged fasteners or cracks are detected, before next flight, accomplish the applicable corrective action(s) (further inspections and/or repair and/or contact Airbus for further instructions) in accordance with the instruction of the Airbus SB A380-53-8133.

Optional Terminating Action:

- (4) Accomplishment of an HFEC inspection of an aeroplane as required by paragraph (2) of this AD, without any crack detected, and concurrent modification of that aeroplane in accordance with the instructions of Airbus SB A380-53-8078 constitutes terminating action for the repetitive inspections required by paragraph (1) of this AD for that aeroplane.

Ref. Publications:

Airbus SB A380-53-8078 original issue dated 21 April 2017.

Airbus SB A380-53-8133 original issue dated 27 April 2017.

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 31 August 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 - EIANA (Airworthiness Office), E-mail: account.airworth-A380@airbus.com.

