Notification of a Proposal to issue an Airworthiness Directive

PAD No.: 17-112

Issued: 10 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 24 – Electrical Power – Ram Air Turbine Uplock Assembly – Modification

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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) 73220 in production.

Reason:
Moisture ingress was reportedly found in the deployment solenoid of the Ram Air Turbine (RAT) uplock assembly. The results of the investigations revealed that moisture intrusion was found at multiple locations, partially attributed to an inadequate o-ring installation between the solenoid and uplock housing.

This condition, if not corrected, could lead to the loss of insulation resistance, preventing RAT deployment, possibly resulting in loss of an emergency electrical generation device and consequent reduced control of an aeroplane.

To address this potential unsafe condition, Airbus developed production mod 73220 to introduce an improved RAT deployment solenoid, providing better protection against moisture ingress, and

issued Service Bulletin (SB) A380-24-8058 (hereafter referred to as 'the SB' in this AD) to provide modification instructions.

For the reasons described above, this AD requires modification of the RAT uplock assembly and re-identification of the RAT.

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

Required as indicated, unless accomplished previously:

Note 1: For the purpose of this AD, Group 1 aeroplanes are those that have a RAT Part Number (P/N) 170428G installed. Group 2 aeroplanes are those that have a different P/N RAT installed.

Part Replacement:

(1) Group 1 aeroplanes: Within 24 months after the effective date of this AD, accomplish concurrently the actions as required by paragraphs (1.1) and (1.2) of this AD, in accordance with the instructions of the SB.

(1.1) Modify the RAT installed on the aeroplane by replacing the uplock assembly with an improved part.

(1.2) Re-identify the modified RAT with the new part number.

Part installation:

(2) Do not install a RAT P/N 170428G on any aeroplane, as required by paragraph (2.1) or (2.2) of this AD, as applicable.

(2.1) Group 1 aeroplanes: After modification of an aeroplane as required by paragraph (1) of this AD.

(2.2) Group 2 aeroplanes: From the effective date of this AD.

Ref. Publications:

Airbus SB A380-24-8058 original issue dated 25 September 2015.

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 07 September 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), Telephone: +33 562 110 253; Fax: +33 562 110 307, E-mail: account.airworth-A380@airbus.com.