



## Notification of a Proposal to issue an Airworthiness Directive

**PAD No.: 18-025**

**Issued: 15 February 2018**

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 28 – Fuel – Trim Tank Vent Pipes – Inspection

**Manufacturer(s):**

Airbus

**Applicability:**

Airbus A380-861 aeroplanes, manufacturer serial numbers (MSN) as listed in the SB.

**Definitions:**

For the purpose of this AD, the following definitions apply:

**The SB:** Airbus Service Bulletin (SB) A380-28-8052 original issue dated 24 January 2018.

**Reason:**

It has been identified that the production line test, which verifies the trim tank pressure during a refuel overflow, has not been performed on certain aeroplanes. Therefore, on those aeroplanes, the vent pipes have not been tested or inspected. This particular production test also ensures that there are no blockages in the vent pipes.

This condition, if not detected and corrected, could lead to overpressure inside the horizontal tail plane (HTP) structure, possibly reducing the structural integrity of the HTP.



To address this potential unsafe condition, ensuring continued operational reliability of the forward trim tank venting system, Airbus developed a one-time borescope inspection on the forward trim tank vent line and published the SB accordingly.

For the reasons described above, this AD requires a one-time borescope inspection of the forward trim tank vent pipes, accomplishment of applicable corrective action(s) in case of blockages, a detailed inspection (DET) of the HTP torque box and repair, as necessary.

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

Required as indicated, unless accomplished previously:

#### **Inspection:**

- (1) Within 32 months after the effective date of this AD, accomplish a borescope inspection on the forward trim tank vent line in accordance with the instructions of the SB.

#### **Corrective Action(s):**

- (2) If, during the inspection as required by paragraph (1) of this AD, any blockage is detected in the forward trim tank vent pipes, before next flight, accomplish the actions specified in paragraphs (2.1) and (2.2) of this AD, concurrently and in sequence, in accordance with the instructions of the SB.

(2.1) Applicable corrective action(s).

(2.2) A DET of the HTP torque box.

- (3) If, during the DET as required by paragraph (2.2) of this AD, any discrepancy is detected, before next flight, contact Airbus for approved repair instructions and, within the compliance time(s) specified in those instructions, accomplish those instructions accordingly.

#### **Ref. Publications:**

Airbus SB A380-28-8052 original issue dated 24 January 2018.

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

#### **Remarks:**

1. This Proposed AD will be closed for consultation on 15 March 2018.
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 SAS - EIANA (Airworthiness Office), Telephone: +33 562 110 253, Fax: +33 562 110 307, E-mail: [account.airworth-A380@airbus.com](mailto:account.airworth-A380@airbus.com).

