



Notification of a Proposal to issue an Airworthiness Directive

PAD No.: 18-055

Issued: 20 April 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):

A318, A319, A320 and A321 aeroplanes

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

TCDS Number(s): EASA.A.064

Foreign AD: Not applicable

Supersedure: None

ATA 32 – Landing Gear – Main Landing Gear Sliding Tube – Inspection

Manufacturer(s):

Airbus (formerly Airbus Industrie)

Applicability:

Airbus A318-111, A318-112, A318-121, A318-122, A319-111, A319-112, A319-113, A319-114, A319-115, A319-131, A319-132, A319-133, A320-211, A320-212, A320-214, A320-215, A320-216, A320-231, A320-232, A320-233, all manufacturer serial numbers.

Definitions:

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

The SB: Airbus Service Bulletin (SB) A320-32-1461.

Affected parts: Main landing gear (MLG) sliding tubes, having a part number (P/N) and serial number (s/n) as listed in Appendix 1 of this AD, that have been last overhauled between 27 October 2003 and 21 September 2009 inclusive.



Groups: Group 1 aeroplanes are those that have an affected part installed. Group 2 aeroplanes are those that do not have an affected part installed.

Reason:

During a walk-around inspection, prior to aeroplane dispatch, an A320 MLG was found collapsed. Investigation revealed that, following a magnetic particle inspection of the MLG sliding tube, performed improperly during overhaul, cracks were initiated, eventually leading to fatigue fracture. A limited number of MLG sliding tubes have been identified that may have been subject to the same improper inspection during the last overhaul.

This condition, if not detected and corrected, could lead to MLG sliding tube fracture, possibly resulting in MLG collapse, damage to the aeroplane, and injury to occupants.

To address this potential unsafe condition, Airbus issued the SB, providing instructions for repetitive general visual inspections (GVI) of the affected parts until next overhaul.

For the reasons described above, this AD requires repetitive GVI of the affected parts and, depending on findings, replacement.

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

Required as indicated, unless accomplished previously:

Inspection(s):

- (1) For Group 1 aeroplanes: Within 500 flight cycles (FC) after the effective date of this AD, and, thereafter, at intervals not to exceed 500 FC, accomplish a GVI of each affected part in accordance with the instructions of the SB.

Corrective Action(s):

- (2) If, during any inspection as required by paragraph (1) of this AD, any crack is detected, before next flight, replace the affected part in accordance with the instructions of the SB.

Terminating Action:

- (3) Accomplishment of overhaul of an affected part after 21 September 2009 constitutes terminating action for the repetitive GVI as required by paragraph (1) of this AD for that affected part.

Credit:

- (4) An aeroplane embodying Airbus Mod 161202 (EV MLG) is not affected by the requirements of paragraphs (1) to (3) of this AD provided it is determined that no affected parts are installed on that aeroplane.
A review of aeroplane delivery and/or maintenance records is acceptable to make this determination, provided those records can be relied upon for that purpose and the P/N and s/n of the MLG sliding tube can be positively identified from that review.



Parts Installation:

- (5) For Group 1 aeroplanes: From the effective date of this AD, it is allowed to install on any aeroplane an affected part, or an MLG equipped with an affected part, provided that, within the last 500 FC before installation, the part passed an inspection as required by this AD, and that, following installation, the part is inspected as required by this AD.
- (6) For Group 2 aeroplanes: From the effective date of this AD, do not install on any aeroplane an affected part.

Ref. Publications:

Airbus SB A320-32-1461 original issue, dated 11 April 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 18 May 2018.
- 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 – Airworthiness Office – EIAS; Fax +33 5 61 93 44 51; E-mail: account.airworth-eas@airbus.com.



Appendix 1

Affected parts: P/N and s/s

Part number	Serial number	Part number	Serial number	Part number	Serial number
201160302	1071	201371302	B198-4649	201371304	B009-4818
201160302	1116B	201371302	B274-4849	201371304	B0544888
201160302	73B	201371302	B225-4715	201371304	B0751922
201160302	1309B	201371302	B228-4755	201371304	B1392028
201160302	1024B	201371302	1801B	201371304	B1655066
201160302	64B	201371302	4441B	201371304	B1025007
201160324	B2414670	201371302	B197-4656	201371304	B994937
201160324	B013-4846	201371302	B210-4687	201371304	B019-05
201160324	B235-4749	201371302	B227-4697	201371304	B1261991
201160324	1321B	201371302	SS4353B	201371304	B123-4994
201160324	MAL1161	201371302	SS4375	201371304	B0334860
201160324	1057	201371302	SS4375	201371304	B0234843
201160324	MAL-1315	201371304	B168-1948	201371304	B0364875
201160324	12088	201371304	B951935	201371304	B042-1899
201160324	1693B	201371304	B003-4830	201371304	B554896
201371302	B2584800	201371304	B005-4815	201371304	B0474885
201371302	B210-4684	201371304	B006-4819	201371304	B0494851
201371302	B196-1879	201371304	B0181916	201371304	B0924936
201371302	B241-4668	201371304	B0211889	201371304	B1064967
201371302	B264-4787	201371304	B0311902	201371304	B1054968
201371302	B265-4808	201371304	B026-1895	201371304	B1081962
201371302	B2564777	201371304	B029-1904	201371304	B013-4845
201371302	B2704816	201371304	B006-4829	201371304	B0374865
201371302	B196-1880	201371304	B0281900	201371304	B1194983
201371302	B2714811	201371304	B0254853	201371304	B4675255
201371302	B229-4729	201371304	B0271893	201371304	B1111974
201371302	B261-4810	201371304	B0321906		
201371302	B2724797	201371304	B003-4821		

