



Notification of a Proposal to issue an Airworthiness Directive

PAD No.: 18-171

Issued: 11 December 2018

Note: This Proposed Airworthiness Directive (PAD) is issued by EASA, acting in accordance with Regulation (EU) 2018/1139 on behalf of the European Union, its Member States and of the European third countries that participate in the activities of EASA under Article 129 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 and A340 aeroplanes

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

TCDS Number(s): EASA.A.004 and EASA.A.015

Foreign AD: Not applicable

Supersedure: None

ATA 57 – Wings – Slat Tracks Number 10 – Inspection / Replacement

Manufacturer(s):

Airbus, formerly Airbus Industrie

Applicability:

Airbus A330-201, A330-202, A330-203, A330-223, A330-243, A330-223F, A330-243F, A330-301, A330-302, A330-303, A330-321, A330-322, A330-323, A330-341, A330-342 and A330-343 aeroplanes, manufacturer serial numbers (MSN) as listed in the applicable SB.

Airbus A340-211, A340-212, A340-213, A340-311, A340-312, A340-313, A340-541, A340-542, A340-642 and A340-643 aeroplanes, MSN as listed in the applicable SB.

Definitions:

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

The applicable SB: Airbus Service Bulletin (SB) A330-57-3144 original issue, A340-57-4148 original issue and SB A340-57-5047 original issue, as applicable.

Affected part: Wing slat tracks at #10 position, installed on Slat 4 on the left hand (LH) or right hand (RH) side and having Part Number (P/N) F574-64110-000 or P/N F574-64110-002.



Serviceable part: Wing slat tracks at #10 position, installed on Slat 4 on the LH or RH side and having P/N F574-64127-002.

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:

It was recently determined that, since June 2010, the affected parts were inadvertently indicated as eligible for installation on all A330 and A340 aeroplanes in the applicable Illustrated Part Catalogue (IPC), although in fact, those parts are not valid for some aeroplane configurations (weight variants), because they are unable to sustain ultimate load. Investigation demonstrated that affected parts were never delivered as spare part. However, it cannot be excluded that an affected part was removed in-service from an aeroplane and installed on another.

This condition, if not detected and corrected, could lead to slat detachment in flight, possibly resulting in reduced control of the aeroplane.

To address this potential unsafe condition, Airbus published the applicable SB to provide instructions to identify affected parts, and instructions to inspect those affected parts found installed.

For the reasons described above, this AD requires a one-time detailed inspection (DET) and special detailed inspection (SDI) of the aft lug of each affected part and replacement of each affected part. This AD also prohibits installation of affected parts.

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

Required as indicated, unless accomplished previously:

Inspections:

- (1) Group 1 aeroplanes: Within 24 months after the effective date of this AD, accomplish a DET and an SDI (high frequency eddy current) of the aft lug of each affected part in accordance with the instructions of the applicable SB.

Corrective Action(s):

- (2) Within the compliance time specified in Table 1 of this AD, as applicable, replace each affected part with a serviceable part in accordance with the instructions of the applicable SB.

Table 1 – Affected Part(s) Replacement

DET / SDI results (crack detected)	Compliance Time (after the inspection as required by paragraph (1) of this AD)
No	Within 3 months
Yes	Before next flight



Part(s) Installation:

- (3) Group 1 and Group 2 aeroplanes: From the effective date of this AD, do not install on any aeroplane an affected part on a RH or LH slat 4.

Ref. Publications:

Airbus SB A330-57-3144 original issue dated 12 November 2018.

Airbus SB A340-57-4148 original issue dated 12 November 2018.

Airbus SB A340-57-5047 original issue dated 12 November 2018.

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

Remarks:

1. This Proposed AD will be closed for consultation on 08 January 2019.
2. Enquiries regarding this PAD should be referred to the EASA Safety Information Section, Certification Directorate. E-mail: ADs@easa.europa.eu.
3. Information about any failures, malfunctions, defects or other occurrences, which may be similar to the unsafe condition addressed by this PAD, and which may occur, or have occurred on a product, part or appliance not affected by this PAD, can be reported to the [EU aviation safety reporting system](#).
4. 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.

