



# Notification of a Proposal to issue an Airworthiness Directive

**PAD No.:** 19-092

**Issued:** 23 May 2019

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:** This AD supersedes EASA AD 2019-0063 dated 26 March 2019.

## ATA 32 – Landing Gear – Free Fall Actuators – 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, all manufacturer serial numbers (MSN); and

Airbus A340-211, A340-212, A340-213, A340-311, A340-312, A340-313, A340-541, A340-542, A340-642 and A340-643 aeroplanes, all MSN.

### Definitions:

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

**The AOT:** Airbus Alert Operators Transmission (AOT) A32L012-18 Revision 1.

**Affected FFA:** Free fall actuators (FFA), having Part Number (P/N) AR02404, and having a serial number (s/n) listed in Appendices 3, 4 or 5 of the AOT, installed on nose landing gear (NLG), main landing gear (MLG) and centre landing gear (CLG). Identification whether or not an affected FFA is



installed on an aeroplane can be accomplished either by physical P/N and s/n inspection, or a records check, provided those records can be relied upon for that purpose.

**Serviceable FFA:** An FFA which is not an affected part.

**Groups:** Group 1 aeroplanes are those that have an affected FFA installed.

Group 2 aeroplanes are those that do not have an affected FFA installed.

#### Reason:

An A330 aeroplane failed to extend its NLG by free fall method, prompted by the loss of the green hydraulic system. Investigation results revealed that the NLG FFA P/N AR02404 has been identified as the root cause, the magnets on this actuator having been found detached on both electrical motors. Further investigation conducted with the FFA manufacturer has identified a potential similar issue on specific FFA with the same P/N, manufactured in 2001 and 2002. Units manufactured in other years were investigated. These affected FFA can also be fitted on MLG (on A330 and A340 aeroplanes) and CLG (on A340-500/600 aeroplanes only) of the aeroplane.

This condition, if not detected and corrected, could prevent LG extension by free fall method, possibly resulting in loss of control of the aeroplane after landing, with consequent damage to the aeroplane and injury to occupants.

To address this potential unsafe condition, Airbus issued AOT A32L012-18 to provide instructions to inspect and test the affected FFA and EASA published AD 2019-0063 to require repetitive testing of each affected FFA, and, depending on findings, replacement with a serviceable FFA.

Since that AD was published, units manufactured in other years have been investigated. Additional affected FFA were identified and it was determined that the intervals for the repetitive test defined in AOT A32L012-18 at original issue needed to be amended. Consequently, Airbus issued the AOT, expanding the list of affected FFA and amending the intervals.

For the reasons described above, this AD retains the requirements of EASA AD 2019-0063, which is superseded, adds affected FFA and amends the inspection intervals.

This AD is considered to be an interim action and further AD action may follow.

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

Required as indicated, unless accomplished previously:

#### Identification / Inspections:

- (1) For Group 1 aeroplanes: Within the compliance times specified in Table 1 of this AD, and, thereafter, at intervals not to exceed the values defined in Table 2 of this AD, accomplish a test of the free fall system of each LG fitted with an affected FFA in accordance with the instructions of the AOT.

If an aeroplane is equipped with affected FFA from different Appendices, the interval applicable for each affected FFA as specified in Table 2 of this AD can be used, or the applicable lowest interval can be used for all affected FFA on that aeroplane.



Table 1 – Inspection / Test Thresholds

<b>FFA installed</b>	<b>Compliance Time</b> (flight hours (FH) or calendar time, whichever occurs first)
Affected FFA in Appendix 3, not tested per Airbus AOT A32L012-18 at original issue	Within 90 days after 09 April 2019 [the effective date of EASA AD 2019-0063]
Affected FFA in Appendix 3, tested per Airbus AOT A32L012-18 at original issue	Within 1 600 FH or 5 months, whichever occurs first since previous test Grace period: 90 days after 09 April 2019 [the effective date of EASA AD 2019-0063]
Affected FFA in Appendix 4 or 5	Within 90 days after the effective date of this AD

Table 2 – Inspection / Test Intervals

<b>Aeroplane</b>	<b>Equipped with affected FFA in the AOT, Appendix No.</b>	<b>Compliance Time</b> (flight hours (FH) or calendar time, whichever occurs first)
All	3	1 600 FH or 5 months
A330-200, A330-200F, A330-300 and A340-200/-300	4	2 500 FH or 8 months
A340-500/-600	4	2 025 FH or 8 months
A330-200, A330-200F, A330-300	5	3 400 FH or 10 months
A340-200/-300	5	3 800 FH or 10 months
A340-500/-600	5	2 025 FH or 10 months

**Corrective Action(s):**

- (2) If, during any test as required by paragraph (1) of this AD, an affected FFA fails the test, before next flight, replace the affected FFA with a serviceable FFA, as defined in this AD, in accordance with the instructions of the AOT.

**Credit:**

- (3) Accomplishment of a test as required by paragraph (1) of this AD allows an operator to claim compliance with the applicable ALS Part 3 (CMR), “Operational Check of Landing Gear Freefall system”, A330 task 323000-00001-1-C, A340 task 323000-A0001-1-C, or A340 task 323000-B0001-1-C, as applicable, provided the continuity test specified in AMM task A330-32-33-00-710-809, or AMM task A340-32-33-00-710-806, as applicable, is accomplished concurrently.



**Terminating Action:**

- (4) Replacement on an aeroplane of each affected FFA, as defined in this AD, with a serviceable FFA, as defined in this AD, constitutes terminating action for the repetitive tests of the free fall system of each LG, as required by paragraph (1) of this AD for that aeroplane.

**Part(s) Installation:**

- (5) For Group 1 and Group 2 aeroplanes: From the effective date of this AD, do not install an affected FFA on any aeroplane.

**Ref. Publications:**

Airbus AOT A32L012-18 original issue dated 29 January 2019, and Revision 1 dated 16 May 2019.

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 20 June 2019.
2. Enquiries regarding this PAD should be referred to the EASA Programming and Continued Airworthiness Information Section, Certification Directorate. E-mail: [ADs@easa.europa.eu](mailto: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](mailto:airworthiness.A330-A340@airbus.com).

