

## Airworthiness Directive

**AD No.:** 2020-0097

**Issued:** 04 May 2020

Note: This Airworthiness Directive (AD) 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.

This AD is issued in accordance with Regulation (EU) 748/2012, Part 21.A.3B. In accordance with Regulation (EU) 1321/2014 Annex I, Part M.A.301, the continuing airworthiness of an aircraft shall be ensured by accomplishing any applicable ADs. Consequently, no person may operate an aircraft to which an AD applies, except in accordance with the requirements of that AD, unless otherwise specified by the Agency [Regulation (EU) 1321/2014 Annex I, Part M.A.303] or agreed with the Authority of the State of Registry [Regulation (EU) 2018/1139, Article 71 exemption].

**Design Approval Holder's Name:**

ATR-GIE AVIONS de TRANSPORT RÉGIONAL

**Type/Model designation(s):**

ATR 42 and ATR 72 aeroplanes

**Effective Date:** 18 May 2020

**TCDS Number(s):** EASA.A.084

**Foreign AD:** Not applicable

**Supersedure:** None

### ATA 53 – Fuselage – Passenger Seat Tracks – Inspection / Repair / Replacement

**Manufacturer(s):**

ATR-GIE Avions de Transport Régional, formerly EADS ATR - Alenia, Aerospatiale Matra ATR - ALENIA, Aerospatiale - Alenia, Aerospatiale – Aeritalia

**Applicability:**

ATR 42-300, ATR 42-320, ATR 42-400 and ATR 42-500 aeroplanes, all manufacturer serial numbers (MSN); and  
 ATR 72-101, ATR 72-102, ATR 72-201, ATR 72-202, ATR 72-211, ATR 72-212 and ATR 72-212A aeroplanes, all MSN.

**Definitions:**

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

**The applicable SB:** ATR Service Bulletin (SB) ATR42-53-0151 and SB ATR72-53-1108, as applicable.

**Affected part:** A seat track having Part Number (P/N) S53570203200, P/N S53570203202, P/N S53375001212, P/N S53375001213 or P/N S53375001214 and manufactured between year 2012 and year 2017 inclusive, or a seat track having a P/N as listed above, where the manufacturing batch number is not legible. The manufacturing date of the seat track can be identified by the batch number; an example is provided in Appendix 1 of this AD.

**Serviceable part:** A seat track that is not an affected part, or an affected part that has passed (no deficiencies found) an inspection in accordance with the instructions of the applicable SB.

**Groups:** Group 1 are ATR 42 aeroplanes from MSN 0859 to MSN 1402 inclusive, and ATR 72 aeroplanes from MSN 1047 to MSN 1487 inclusive.

Group 2 are aeroplanes that are not Group 1 and for which a seat track repair or replacement has been performed on the seat tracks P/N S53570203200, P/N S53570203202, P/N S53375001212, P/N S53375001213 or P/N S53375001214 since year 2012.

**Reason:**

Several occurrences have been reported of finding defective seat tracks, either on the ATR final assembly line or during maintenance activities on ATR aeroplanes. Investigation results have identified a potential structural deficiency of those seat tracks under an emergency landing condition.

This condition, if not detected and corrected, could, in case of an emergency landing, lead to a structural failure of the seat track attachment, possibly resulting in injury to occupants, and/or affecting the emergency evacuation.

To address this potential unsafe condition, ATR issued the applicable SB to provide inspection instructions.

For the reasons described above, this AD requires a one-time detailed visual inspection (DVI) of each affected part and, depending on findings, accomplishment of applicable corrective action(s).

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

Required as indicated, unless accomplished previously:

**Inspections:**

- (1) For Group 1 and Group 2 aeroplanes: Within 26 months after the effective date of this AD, accomplish a one-time DVI of each affected part in accordance with the instructions of the applicable SB.

**Corrective Action(s):**

- (2) If, during the DVI as required by paragraph (1) of this AD, deficiencies are found, within the compliance time specified in Table 1 of this AD, depending on location, accomplish the applicable corrective action(s) in accordance with the instructions of the applicable SB.



Table 1 – Corrective Action(s)

Location	Compliance Time
Finding located at the level of at least one passenger seat fitting	Before next flight
Finding <b>not</b> located at the level of passenger seat fitting	Within 24 months after the inspection as required by paragraph (1) of this AD or at next relocation/replacement of the cabin seats, whichever occurs first

**Parts Installation:**

- (3) From the effective date of this AD, installation of an affected part on an aeroplane is allowed, provided that the part is a serviceable part, as defined in this AD.

**Ref. Publications:**

ATR SB ATR42-53-0151 original issue dated 20 February 2020.

ATR SB ATR72-53-1108 original issue dated 26 February 2020.

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

**Remarks:**

1. If requested and appropriately substantiated, EASA can approve Alternative Methods of Compliance for this AD.
2. This AD was posted on 25 March 2020 as PAD 20-056 for consultation until 22 April 2020. The Comment Response Document can be found in the [EASA Safety Publications Tool](#), in the compressed (zipped) file attached to the record for this AD.
3. Enquiries regarding this AD 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).
4. Information about any failures, malfunctions, defects or other occurrences, which may be similar to the unsafe condition addressed by this AD, and which may occur, or have occurred on a product, part or appliance not affected by this AD, can be reported to the [EU aviation safety reporting system](#).
5. For any question concerning the technical content of the requirements in this AD, please contact: ATR - GIE Avions de Transport Régional, Continued Airworthiness Service, Telephone: +33 (0)5 62 21 62 21, Fax: +33 (0) 5 62 21 67 18; E-mail: [continued.airworthiness@atr-aircraft.com](mailto:continued.airworthiness@atr-aircraft.com).



## APPENDIX 1 – Seat Track Manufacturing Batch Number



The batch number is located on the lower face of the seat track.  
The batch number of the represented seat track above is 0279/19.  
/19 represents the production year of the seat track.  
All the seat tracks with a batch number having /12 up to /17, or with a batch number not visible/legible, have to be considered as potential affected parts.

