



Notification of a Proposal to issue an Airworthiness Directive

PAD No.: 20-091

Issued: 03 June 2020

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:

SAAB AB

Type/Model designation(s):

SAAB 340 and 2000 aeroplanes

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

TCDS Number(s): EASA.A.068 and EASA.A.069

Foreign AD: Not applicable

Supersedure: None

ATA 32 – Landing Gear – Nose Landing Gear Door Attachment Bolts – Replacement

Manufacturer(s):

SAAB AB (SAAB), formerly Saab Aircraft AB

Applicability:

Saab-Fairchild SF340A, SAAB 340B and SAAB 2000 aeroplanes, all serial numbers.

Definitions:

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

Affected part: Nose landing gear (NLG) door attachment bolts, Part Number (P/N) 7232203-041, identified by SAAB Form 1 Tracking number C29127 and Work Order (Contract/Invoice) number 81045396, shipped between 15 June 2013 and 31 August 2017. NLG door attachment bolts (installed or held as spare) for which the P/N or the provenance cannot be established are considered affected parts.

Serviceable part: NLG door attachment bolts that are not an affected part.

The applicable SB: SAAB Service Bulletin (SB) 340-32-146 and SB 2000-32-082, as applicable.



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 quality process review, it was revealed that certain NLG door attached bolts have been incorrectly manufactured. The affected parts are susceptible to hydrogen embrittlement, decreasing the mechanical characteristics.

This condition, if not detected and corrected, could lead to failure of affected parts, impairing the link between NLG and NLG door, possibly preventing extension or retraction of the NLG, with consequent damage to the aeroplane upon landing.

To address this potential unsafe condition, SAAB issued the applicable SB to provide instructions to identify and replace the affected parts.

For the reason described above, this AD requires replacement of the affected parts with serviceable parts, as defined in the AD. This AD also prohibits (re)installation of affected parts.

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

Required as indicated, unless accomplished previously:

Replacement:

- (1) For Group 1 aeroplanes: Within 12 months after the effective date of this AD, replace each affected part in accordance with the instructions of the SB.

Parts Installation:

- (2) Do not install (see Note 1 of this AD) an affected part on any aeroplane, as required by paragraph (2.1) or (2.2) of this AD, as applicable.

(2.1) For Group 1 aeroplanes: After removal of the affected parts from the aeroplane as required by paragraph (1) of this AD.

(2.2) For Group 2 aeroplanes: From the effective date of this AD.

Note 1: Removing an affected part from an aeroplane (for any reason other than to comply with this AD) and, during the same maintenance visit, re-installing that part on the same location of the same aeroplane, is not considered “install” as specified in paragraph (2) of this AD.

Ref. Publications:

SAAB SB 340-32-146 original issue dated 30 April 2020.

SAAB SB 2000-32-082 original issue dated 30 April 2020.

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 01 July 2020.
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.
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: SAAB AB, Support and Services, SE-581 88 Linköping, Sweden, E-mail: Saab2000.techsupport@saabgroup.com.

