



Notification of a Proposal to issue an Airworthiness Directive

PAD No.: 20-147

Issued: 25 September 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:

SONACA AIRCRAFT S.A.

Type/Model designation(s):

S2 aeroplanes

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

TCDS Number(s): EASA.A.626

Foreign AD: Not applicable

Supersedure: None

ATA 25 – Equipment / Furnishings – Seat Belt Restraint System – Inspection / Modification

Manufacturer(s):

Sonaca Aircraft S.A. (Sonaca)

Applicability:

S200 and S201 aeroplanes, all serial numbers.

Definitions:

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

Affected part: Seat belt restraint assemblies, having Part Number (P/N) A-RF-ASE-001-L or P/N A-RF-ASE-001-R.

The SB: Sonaca Service Bulletin (SB) SB-SONAIR-S2-011 Revision B.

The modification SB: Sonaca SB-SONAIR-S2-005 Revision A.



Reason:

A design error was found to exist in the seat belt upper restraint system assembly, not having a thimble installed in each wire rope loop. These thimbles were installed on some aeroplanes on the basis of good practice. The absence of thimbles could lead to wear of seat belt shoulder restraint cables and fittings.

This condition, if not detected and corrected, could lead to seat belt shoulder restraint cable or fitting failure, possibly resulting in injury to aeroplane occupants during an emergency landing.

To address this potential unsafe condition, Sonaca has changed the design to include these thimbles, and issued the SB to provide instructions for inspection and modification.

For the reason described above, this AD requires a one-time inspection of the seat belt shoulder restraint cable and fittings to detect if a thimble was installed and, if not, modification by installation of thimbles. This AD also requires repetitive inspections of each affected part and, depending on findings, repair or replacement of assembly components.

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

Required as indicated, unless accomplished previously:

Inspection(s):

- (1) Within the compliance time specified in Table 1 of this AD, as applicable, and, thereafter, at intervals not to exceed 2 000 flight hours (FH) or 10 years, whichever occurs first, inspect each affected part in accordance with the instructions of the SB.

Table 1 – Initial Inspection (see Note 1 of this AD)

FH and Calendar Months	Compliance Times
500 FH or less, and 24 months or less	Before exceeding 600 FH or 36 months, whichever occurs first
More than 500 FH or 24 months	Within 100 FH or 12 months, whichever occurs first after the effective date of this AD

Note 1: Unless specified otherwise, the FH and calendar months indicated in Table 1 of this AD are those accumulated by the aeroplane since first flight.

Corrective Action(s):

- (2) If, during any inspection as required by paragraph (1) of this AD, worn or damaged assembly components are found, before next flight, accomplish applicable repair action(s) in accordance with Sonaca approved instructions, and replace damaged components in accordance with the instructions of the SB.

Modification:

- (3) If, during the initial inspection as required by paragraph (1) of this AD, no thimbles are found to be installed at the end of any cable of an assembly, modify that affected part in accordance with the instructions of the SB.



Concurrent Modification Requirement:

- (4) Before or concurrent with the initial inspection as required by paragraph (1) of this AD, modify the aeroplane by installing a rear fuselage inspection hatch in accordance with the instructions of the modification SB.

Terminating Action:

- (5) None.

Parts Installation:

- (6) From the effective date of this AD, it is allowed to install on any aeroplane an affected part, provided that the part is new (not previously installed), or that, before installation, it is verified that thimbles are installed at the end of each cable of that part.

Ref. Publications:

Sonaca Aircraft S.A. SB-SONAIR-S2-011 Revision B dated 07 August 2020.

Sonaca Aircraft S.A. SB-SONAIR-S2-005 Revision A dated 02 July 2019.

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 23 October 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](#). This may include reporting on the same or similar components, other than those covered by the design to which this PAD applies, if the same unsafe condition can exist or may develop on an aircraft with those components installed. Such components may be installed under an FAA Parts Manufacturer Approval (PMA), Supplemental Type Certificate (STC) or other modification.
4. For any question concerning the technical content of the requirements in this PAD, please contact: Sonaca Aircraft - After Sales Service, Telephone: +32 81 90 00 01, E-mail: aftersales@sonaca-aircraft.com.

