

Notification of a Proposal to issue an Airworthiness Directive

PAD No.: 21-057

Issued: 26 April 2021

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):

A380 aeroplanes

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

TCDS Number(s): EASA.A.110

Foreign AD: Not applicable

Supersedure: None

ATA 57 – Wings – Wing Tip Assembly – Modification

Manufacturer(s):

Airbus

Applicability:

Airbus A380-841, A380-842 and A380-861 aeroplanes, all manufacturer serial numbers, except those that have embodied Airbus modification (mod) 76718 and mod 76719 in production.

Definitions:

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

The applicable SB: Airbus Service Bulletin (SB) A380-57-8132 (for right-hand (RH) wing tip) and SB A380-57-8133 (for left-hand (LH) wing tip), as applicable.

Aeroplane date of manufacture: The date of transfer of title (ownership), which is referenced in Airbus documentation at the time of first delivery to an operator.

Reason:

Following investigation after an in-service event, it was established that parts manufactured from 7449 aluminium alloy in the wing tip assembly are susceptible to cracking.



This condition, if not corrected, could lead to crack initiation and propagation, possibly resulting in reduced structural integrity of the wing.

To address this potential unsafe condition, Airbus initially issued SB A380-57-8145 and SB A380-57-8146 as interim action and then developed a new wing tip assembly made from 7010 aluminium alloy, which is embodied in production through Airbus mod 76718 and mod 76719, and issued the applicable SB to provide modification instructions for in-service aeroplanes.

For the reasons described above, this AD requires modification of the wing tip assemblies, both LH and RH sides.

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

Required as indicated, unless accomplished previously:

Modification:

Within the compliance time as defined in Table 1 of this AD, as applicable, modify the wing tip assemblies in accordance with the instructions of the applicable SB.

Table 1 – Wing Tip Modification

Aeroplane Configuration	Compliance Time
Post-SB A380-57-8145 (for LH wing)	Within 7 years after SB A380-57-8145 embodiment
Post-SB A380-57-8146 (for RH wing)	Within 7 years after SB A380-57-8146 embodiment
Pre-SB A380-57-8145 (for LH wing)	Before exceeding 7 years since aeroplane date of manufacture
Pre-SB A380-57-8146 (for RH wing)	

Ref. Publications:

Airbus SB A380-57-8132 original issue dated 03 February 2017, or Revision 01 dated 10 October 2019.

Airbus SB A380-57-8133 original issue dated 03 February 2017, or Revision 01 dated 23 January 2020.

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

Airbus SB A380-57-8145 original issue dated 22 July 2016, or Revision 01 dated 26 June 2017.

Airbus SB A380-57-8146 original issue dated 22 July 2016, or Revision 01 dated 26 June 2017.

Remarks:

1. This Proposed AD will be closed for consultation on 24 May 2021.
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](#). 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: AIRBUS SAS - EIANA (Airworthiness Office), Telephone: +33 562 110 253, Fax: +33 562 110 307, E-mail: account.airworth-A380@airbus.com.

