Notification of a Proposal to issue an Airworthiness Directive

PAD No.: 21-082

Issued: 04 June 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: 
IRKUT CORPORATION JSC

Type/Model designation(s): 
RRJ-95B aeroplanes

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

TCDS Number(s): EASA.IM.A.176


Replacement: For affected aeroplanes operated under EU regulation, this AD replaces FATA State of Design AD 2020-FATA-01020A-11 dated 28 July 2020 and AD 2021-FATA-01020A-02 dated 23 April 2021, which are not adopted by EASA.

ATA 27 – Flight Controls – Horizontal Stabiliser / Actuator Bracket Attachment Bolts – Inspection / Replacement

Manufacturer(s):
Irkut Corporation JSC, Regional Aircraft Branch (formerly Sukhoi Civil Aircraft Corporation)

Applicability:
RRJ-95B aeroplanes, serial numbers 95007 through 95206 (inclusive).

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

Affected part: Upper and lower 8 mm attachment bolts of stabilizer trimming mechanism attachment bracket Part Number 8-28-Ц-ОCT31138-80.

The SB: Irkut Service Bulletin (SB) RRJ-55-00489-БД.
The AMM task: Sukhoi RRJ-95 Aircraft Maintenance Manual (AMM) M7.92.0AMM.000.000.EN, task 55-16-00-220-802 “Detailed inspection of stabilizer trimming mechanism attachment bracket and stabilizer front spar”.

Reason:
Occurrences were reported of the affected part damage. Subsequent investigation determined that, possibly, unfavourable combination of manufacturing processes led to the detected damages.

This condition, if not detected and corrected, could lead to failure of trimmable horizontal stabiliser actuator attachment bracket with consequent loss of aeroplane longitudinal trimming capability, resulting in loss of control of an aeroplane.

To address this potential unsafe condition, FATA issued AD 2020-FATA-01020A-11, dated 28 July 2020, applicable to Irkut Corporation JSC RRJ-95 aeroplanes. That AD requires repetitive inspections of the affected part and refers to optional terminating solution. Subsequently, FATA issued AD 2021-FATA-01020A-02 dated 23 April 2021, cancelling AD 2020-FATA-01020A-11, based on consideration that the inspections required by AD 2020-FATA-01020A-02 were introduced into the aeroplane AMM. Based on information available, EASA decided not to adopt FATA AD 2020-FATA-01020A-11 and 2021-FATA-01020A-02 and considers necessary to require the repetitive detailed visual inspections (DVI) and the mandatory replacement of the affected parts in order to ensure the airworthiness of the type design.

For the reasons described above, this AD requires repetitive DVI and replacement of the affected parts.

Required Action(s) and Compliance Time(s):
Required as indicated, unless accomplished previously:

Repetitive Inspection(s):
(1) Before exceeding 1 000 flight cycles (FC) since first flight of the aeroplane, or within 200 FC after the effective date of this AD, whichever occurs later, and, thereafter, at intervals not to exceed 500 FC or 750 flight hours, whichever occurs first, accomplish DVI of each affected part. Accomplishment of an inspection in accordance with the instructions of the AMM task (as defined in this AD) is an acceptable method to comply with the requirements of this paragraph.

Corrective Action(s):
(2) If, during any inspection as required by paragraph (1) of this AD, any damage is detected, before next flight, replace each affected part in accordance with the instructions of the SB.

Modification:
(3) Within 36 months after the effective date of this AD, unless accomplished as required by paragraph (2) of this AD, replace each affected part in accordance with the instructions of the SB.

Terminating Action:
(4) Replacement of each affected part as required by paragraph (2) or (3) of this AD constitutes terminating action for the repetitive inspections as required by paragraph (1) of this AD.
Ref. Publications:
Sukhoi RRJ-95 AMM M7.92.0AMM.000.000.EN Issue 03 Rev. 03 dated 30 June 2020.
Irkut SB RRJ-55-00489-БД original issue dated 02 November 2020.

Remarks:
1. This Proposed AD will be closed for consultation on 02 July 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: Regional Aircraft – Branch of the Irkut Corporation - Public Company, 26 bld. 5, Leninskaya Sloboda street, Moscow, 115280, Russia. Telephone: +7 (495) 727 19 88, Fax: +7 (495) 727 19 83, Email: airworthiness@scac.ru.