

Notification of a Proposal to issue an Airworthiness Directive

PAD No.: 21-176

Issued: 02 December 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):

A350 aeroplanes

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

TCDS Number(s): EASA.A.151

Foreign AD: Not applicable

Supersedure: None

ATA 57 – Wings – Wing Upper and Lower Covers – Inspection / Repair

Manufacturer(s):

Airbus

Applicability:

Airbus A350-941 and A350-1041 aeroplanes, manufacturer serial numbers (MSN) 0044, 0060, 0061, 0124, 0211, 0224, 0237, 0251, 0292, 0298, 0385, 0407 and 0421.

Definitions:

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

The SB: Airbus Service Bulletin (SB) A350-57-P076.

Affected area: Wing Lower Cover (WLC) and Wing Upper Cover (WUC) left-hand and-right hand side.

Groups: Group 1 aeroplanes are MSN 0124 and 0211. Group 2 aeroplanes are MSN 0224, 0237, 0251, 0385, 0407 and 0421. Group 3 aeroplanes are MSN 0044, 0060, 0061, 0292 and 0298.

Airbus date of manufacture: The date of transfer of title (ownership) of the aeroplane upon delivery by Airbus to the first operator, which is referenced in Airbus documentation.



Reason:

It has been identified that, due to a production quality issue, Heavy Expanded Copper Foil (HECF) patches may not have been installed at all required locations of the WLC and WUC.

This condition, if not detected and corrected, combined with a pre-existing undetected incorrect installation of an adjacent fastener and associated nut-cap, could create an ignition source for the fuel vapour inside the fuel tanks, which, in case of a lightning strike of high intensity in the area, could possibly result in ignition of the fuel-air mixture in the affected fuel tank and consequent loss of the aeroplane.

To address this potential unsafe condition, Airbus issued the SB, as defined in this AD, to provide inspection and associated repair instructions.

For the reason described above, this AD requires repair or one-time special detailed inspection (SDI) of the affected areas and, depending on findings, accomplishment of applicable corrective action(s).

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

Required as indicated, unless accomplished previously:

Inspection(s):

- (1) For Group 1 and Group 2 aeroplanes: Within the compliance time specified in Table 1 of this AD, as applicable, accomplish an SDI of affected areas in accordance with the instructions of the SB.

Table 1 - Inspection

Group	Compliance Time
1	Within 12 months after the effective date of this AD
2	Before exceeding 78 months since Airbus date of manufacture

Corrective Action(s) / Repair:

- (2) If, during the SDI as required by paragraph (1) of this AD, HECF patches are found missing, before next flight, accomplish the applicable corrective action(s) in accordance with the instructions of the SB.
- (3) For Group 3 aeroplanes: Before exceeding 78 months since Airbus date of manufacture, repair the affected area for HECF patches in accordance with the instructions of the SB.

Ref. Publications:

Airbus SB A350-57-P076 original issue dated 05 November 2021.

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



Remarks:

1. This Proposed AD will be closed for consultation on 30 December 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 A350 XWB, E-mail: continued-airworthiness.a350@airbus.com.

