

Notification of a Proposal to issue an Airworthiness Directive

PAD No.: 21-178

Issued: 09 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 25 – Equipment / furnishings – Escape Slide-Raft at Passenger Doors 3 – Inflatable Free Aisle Restrictor – Modification / Replacement

Manufacturer(s):

Airbus

Applicability:

Airbus A350-941 aeroplanes, all manufacturer serial numbers.

Definitions:

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

The SBs: Airbus Service Bulletin (SB) A350-25-P181, applicable to left-hand (LH) passenger door 3, and SB A350-25-P182, applicable to right-hand (RH) passenger door 3, which both refer to Safran 'Vendor' SB (VSB) A350 006-25-08.

Affected part: Escape slide raft LH passenger door 3, having Part Number (P/N) 67963-101 or P/N 67963-103, and escape slide raft RH passenger door 3, having P/N 67963-102 or P/N 67963-104.

Serviceable part: Escape slide raft LH passenger door 3, having P/N 67963-105 or P/N 67963-107, and escape slide raft RH passenger door 3, having P/N 67963-106 or P/N 67963-108.



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. An A350 aeroplane that has embodied modification 116357 in production is a Group 2 aeroplane, provided that no affected part has been installed in service on that aeroplane.

Reason:

Following the introduction of the inflatable free aisle restrictor (IFAR) system on Airbus A350-900 aeroplanes single lane slide/rafts, the manufacturer identified that the IFAR on passenger doors 3 single lane slides showed inconsistent release behavior in aft wind conditions.

This condition, if not detected and corrected, could result in the slide being unusable during an emergency event, which would impair the safe evacuation of occupants.

To address this potential unsafe condition, Airbus issued the SBs, as defined in this AD, to provide instructions to remove affected parts and install serviceable parts.

Safran issued the VSB, as defined in this AD, to provide instructions for modification and re-identification of affected parts.

For the reasons described above, this AD requires the replacement of the affected parts. This AD also prohibits (re)installation of affected parts on any aeroplane.

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

Required as indicated, unless accomplished previously:

Modification / Replacement:

- (1) For Group 1 aeroplanes: Within 27 months after the effective date of this AD, replace each affected part with a serviceable part in accordance with the instructions of the SBs.

Part(s) Installation:

- (2) Do not install 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 modification of the aeroplane as required by paragraph (1) of this AD.

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

Ref. Publications:

Airbus SB A350-25-P181 original issued dated 22 July 2021.

Airbus SB A350-25-P182 original issued dated 22 July 2021.

Safran SB A350 006-25-08 original issue dated 07 June 2021.

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 06 January 2022.
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.

