



Notification of a Proposal to issue an Airworthiness Directive

PAD No.: 22-029

Issued: 22 March 2022

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 – Centre Wing Box Fasteners – Replacement

Manufacturer(s):

Airbus

Applicability:

Airbus A350-941 and A350-1041 aeroplanes, all manufacturer serial numbers, except those on which Airbus modifications 116348 and 116559 have been embodied in production.

Definitions:

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

The SB: Airbus Service Bulletin (SB) A350-57-P069.

Affected parts: Fasteners, installed on left-hand and right-hand centre wing box (CWB) at front and rear spar area, as specified in the SB.

Reason:

During flight and fatigue test, it was detected that some fasteners rotate inside their fastener holes of the CWB. Further investigation identified insufficient friction for the application.



This condition, if not corrected, could lead to a loss of fastener clamping and crack of nut sealant cover, possibly resulting, in case of lightning strike, in a fuel tank explosion and consequent loss of the aeroplane.

To address this potential unsafe condition, Airbus issued the SB to provide instructions to replace the affected parts and to introduce additional head nut cap protection at front and rear spar in the CWB.

For the reasons described above, this AD requires replacement of the affected parts and introduction of additional head nut cap protection at front and rear spar in the CWB.

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

Required as indicated, unless accomplished previously:

Modification:

Within 69 months after the effective date of this AD, replace the affected parts and apply additional head nut cap protection at front and rear spar in the CWB in accordance with the instructions of the SB.

Ref. Publications:

Airbus SB A350-57-P069 original issue dated 16 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 19 April 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.

