Notification of a Proposal to issue an Airworthiness Directive

PAD No.: 22-182

Issued: 21 December 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 S.A.S.

Type/Model designation(s):
A330 aeroplanes

Effective Date: [TBD - standard: 14 days after AD issue date]
TCDS Number(s): EASA.A.004
Foreign AD: Not applicable
Supersedure: None

ATA 28 – Fuel – Inner Fuel Tanks – Leak Test

Manufacturer(s):
Airbus, formerly Airbus Industrie

Applicability:
Airbus A330-201, A330-202, A330-203, A330-223, A330-223F, A330-243, A330-243F, A330-301, A330-302, A330-303, A330-321, A330-322, A330-323, A330-341, A330-342, A330-343, A330-743L, A330-841 and A330-941 aeroplanes, all manufacturer serial numbers as listed in the SB.

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

The SB: Airbus Service Bulletin (SB) A330-28-3141.

Reason:
It has been determined that the differential pressure test across Rib 3, part of the production ground test procedure, has not been properly accomplished on aeroplanes delivered before July 2021. The intent of that test is to confirm inner fuel tank integrity.

This condition, if not detected and corrected, in case of uncontained engine rotor failure and subsequent fuel tank puncture, could lead to insufficient fuel being available to ensure continued safe flight and landing.

To address this potential unsafe condition, Airbus issued the SB, providing instructions for a leak test of the inner fuel tanks.

For the reason described above, this AD requires a fuel tank leak test and, depending on findings, accomplishment of applicable corrective action(s).

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

Required as indicated, unless accomplished previously:

Leak Test:

(1) Within 48 months after the effective date of this AD, accomplish a leak test of the inner fuel tanks (left hand and right hand) in accordance with the instructions of the SB.

Corrective Action(s):

(2) If, during the leak test, as required by paragraph (1) of this AD, any discrepancy, as identified in the SB, is detected, within 48 months after the effective date of this AD, accomplish the applicable corrective actions in accordance with the instructions of the SB, or contact Airbus for approved instructions and accomplish those instructions accordingly.

Ref. Publications:

Airbus SB A330-28-3141 original issue dated 16 December 2022.

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

Remarks:

1. This Proposed AD will be closed for consultation on 18 January 2023.

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 – 1IAL (Airworthiness Office), E-mail: airworthiness.A330-A340@airbus.com.