Notification of a Proposal to issue an Airworthiness Directive

PAD No.: 24-004
Issued: 12 January 2024

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: SAAB AB
Type/Model designation(s): SAAB SF340A and 340B aeroplanes

Effective Date: [TBD - standard: 14 days after AD issue date]
TCDS Number(s): EASA.A.068
Foreign AD: Not applicable
Supersedure: This AD supersedes EASA AD 2017-0033 dated 17 February 2017.

ATA 05 – Time Limits / Maintenance Checks – Airworthiness Limitations Section – Amendment

Manufacturer(s):
Saab AB (formerly Saab AB – Support and Services, Saab Aeronautics, SAAB Aerosystems)

Applicability:
SAAB SF340A and 340B aeroplanes, all serial numbers.

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


The AMP: The Aircraft Maintenance Programme (AMP) contains the tasks on the basis of which the scheduled maintenance is conducted to ensure the continuing airworthiness of each operated aircraft. For aircraft operated under EU regulations, the operator or the owner ensures compliance with the AMP as stipulated in Commission Regulation (EU) 1321/2014.
New and/or more restrictive tasks: This includes all tasks that are new and all tasks for which a threshold or interval was reduced, which were introduced into the ALM (as defined in this AD) since the previous ALM revision that is currently incorporated in the AMP.

Reason:
The airworthiness limitations and/or certification maintenance instructions (CMR) for SAAB SF340A and 340B aeroplanes, which are approved by EASA, are currently defined and published in the SAAB SF340A and 340B ALM document. These airworthiness limitations and/or CMRs have been identified as mandatory for continued airworthiness.

Failure to accomplish these instructions could result in an unsafe condition.

Previously EASA issued EASA AD 2017-0033 requiring the actions described in SAAB SF340A and 340B ALM Revision 1.

Since that AD was issued, Saab AB issued the ALM, as defined in this AD, containing new and/or more restrictive tasks.

For the reason described above, this AD retains the requirements of EASA AD 2017-0033, which is superseded, and requires accomplishment of the actions specified in the ALM.

Required Action(s) and Compliance Time(s):
Required as indicated by this AD, unless the actions required by this AD have been already accomplished:

Maintenance Tasks and Replacement of Life Limited Parts:
(1) From the effective date of this AD, accomplish the following actions, as specified in the ALM, as applicable to aeroplane model and depending on aeroplane configuration:

(1.1) Replace each component before exceeding the applicable life limit, and

(1.2) Within the thresholds and intervals, accomplish all applicable maintenance tasks.

Corrective Action(s):
(2) In case of finding discrepancies (as defined in the ALM) during accomplishment of any task as required by paragraph (1) of this AD, within the compliance time specified in the ALM, accomplish the applicable corrective action(s) in accordance with the applicable Saab AB maintenance documentation. If no compliance time is identified in the ALM, accomplish the applicable corrective action(s) before next flight. If a detected discrepancy is not identified in the ALM, before next flight, contact Saab AB for approved instructions and accomplish those instructions accordingly.

AMP Revision:
(3) Within 12 months after the effective date of this AD, revise the approved AMP by incorporating the limitations, tasks and associated thresholds and intervals described in the ALM, as applicable to aeroplane model and depending on aeroplane configuration.
Credit:
(4) If, before the effective date of this AD, the AMP has been revised to incorporate the maintenance tasks and life limitations as specified in SAAB SF340A and 340B ALM Revision 1, that action ensures the continued accomplishment of those tasks and limitations.

Consequently, for an aeroplane to which that AMP applies, it is acceptable to accomplish the new and/or more restrictive tasks and limitations as specified in the ALM, as applicable to aeroplane model and depending on aeroplane configuration, within the compliance times as specified in the ALM to comply with paragraph (1) of this AD.

For that AMP, it is acceptable to incorporate the new and/or more restrictive tasks and limitations as specified in the ALM, as applicable to aeroplane model and depending on aeroplane configuration, into the AMP to comply with paragraph (3) of this AD.

Recording AD Compliance:
(5) When the AMP of an aeroplane has been revised as required by paragraph (3) or (4) of this AD, as applicable, that action ensures continued accomplishment of the tasks as required by paragraphs (1) and (2) of this AD for that aeroplane. Consequently, after revising the AMP, as required by paragraph (3) or (4) of this AD, as applicable, it is not necessary that accomplishment of individual action is recorded for demonstration of AD compliance on a continued basis.

Ref. Publications:

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 09 February 2024.

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: Saab AB, SE-581 88 Linkoping, Sweden, E-mail: saab340.techsupport@saabgroup.com.