

Notification of a Proposal to issue an Airworthiness Directive

PAD No.: 24-034

Issued: 18 March 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:

AIRBUS S.A.S.

Type/Model designation(s):

A319, A320, A321, A330, A350 and
A380 aeroplanes

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

TCDS Number(s): EASA.A.004, EASA.A.064, EASA.A.110 and EASA.A.151

Foreign AD: Not applicable

Supersedure: None

ATA 44 – Cabin Systems – Antenna Adapter Plate – Inspection

Manufacturer(s):

Airbus, formerly Airbus Industrie

Applicability:

Airbus A319-111, A319-112, A319-113, A319-114, A319-115, A319-131, A319-132, A319-133, A320-211, A320-212, A320-214, A320-215, A320-216, A320-231, A320-232, A320-233, A320-251N, A320-252N, A320-253N, A320-271N, A320-272N, A320-273N, A321-211, A321-212, A321-213, A321-231, A321-232, A321-251N, A321-251NX, A321-252N, A321-252NX, A321-253N, A321-253NX, A321-271N, A321-271NX, A321-272N and A321-272NX aeroplanes; and

Airbus A330-201, A330-202, A330-203, A330-223, A33-243, A330-301, A330-302, A330-303, A330-321, A330-322, A330-323, A330-341, A330-342, A330-343, A330-841 and A330-941 aeroplanes; and

Airbus A350-941 and A350-1041 aeroplanes; and

Airbus A380-841, A380-842 and A380-861 aeroplanes;

all manufacturer serial numbers.



Definitions:

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

Affected part: Antenna adapter plate having a part number (P/N) as listed in Appendix 1 of this AD.

Aeroplane 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.

The applicable SB: Airbus Service Bulletin (SB) A320-44-1102, SB A320-44-1103, SB A330-44-3054, SB A350-44-P090 or SB A380-44-8145, as applicable to aeroplane model.

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.

Reason:

Corrosion and cracks on an affected part have been reported after an inspection. Further investigation determined that the affected part is made of material susceptible to corrosion cracking, and that the recommended maintenance programs do not ensure timely detection of cracks or damages in this area.

This condition, if not detected and corrected, could lead to in-flight detachment of radome, antenna and/or affected part, which could impact the tail section of the aeroplane, possibly resulting in damage to, and reduced control of, the aeroplane.

To address this potential unsafe condition, Airbus issued the applicable SB, which refer to service bulletins issued by Panasonic (manufacturer of the affected part), to provide inspection instructions for the affected part.

For the reasons described above, this AD requires repetitive general visual inspection (GVI) of the affected part, and, depending on findings, accomplishment of applicable corrective action(s).

This AD is considered to be an interim action and further AD action may follow.

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

Required as indicated by this AD, unless the actions required by this AD have been already accomplished:

Inspection(s):

- (1) For Group 1 aeroplanes: Within the compliance time as specified in Appendix A of the applicable SB, and, thereafter, at intervals not exceeding 36 months, accomplish a GVI of the affected part in accordance with the instructions of the applicable SB.

Where the applicable SB refers to “years since date of Antenna system embodiment”, the years accumulated on the effective date of this AD since the date of first installation of that affected part on that aeroplane must be used instead; if the date of first installation is unknown, the aeroplane date of manufacture must be used instead. Where the applicable SB refers to the “SB publication date”, the effective date of this AD must be used instead.



For A380 aeroplanes, the compliance time as identified in Appendix 2 of this AD must be used instead of the compliance time as identified in the table provided in Appendix A – section 1 of the SB A380-44-8145 (see Note 1).

Note 1: It is expected that the SB A380-44-8145 will be revised to update the compliance time table accordingly.

Corrective Action(s):

(2) If, during any GVI as required by paragraph (1) of this AD, any crack and/or corrosion are detected, before next flight, accomplish the applicable corrective action(s) in accordance with the instructions of the applicable SB.

Terminating Action:

(3) None.

Reporting:

(4) Within 30 days after each GVI as required by paragraph (1) of this AD, report the inspection results (including no findings for the first inspection only) to Airbus. Using the inspection report attached to the applicable SB is an acceptable method to comply with this requirement.

Part Installation:

(5) For Group 1 and Group 2 aeroplanes: From the effective date of the AD, it is allowed to install an affected part on an aeroplane, provided that part is new and, after installation, GVI and corrective action(s), as applicable, are accomplished on that affected part, as required by this AD. After that installation, the aeroplane is effectively considered a Group 1.

Note 2: Removal of an affected part and reinstallation of an affected part on the same aeroplane, accomplished during a single maintenance visit, is not considered as installation as specified in paragraph (5) of this AD.

Ref. Publications:

Airbus SB A320-44-1102 original issue dated 22 December 2023.

Airbus SB A320-44-1103 original issue dated 22 December 2023.

Airbus SB A330-44-3054 original issue dated 22 December 2023.

Airbus SB A350-44-P090 original issue dated 22 December 2023.

Airbus SB A380-44-8145 original issue dated 22 December 2023.

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 15 April 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: AIRBUS, as specified below:

For A320 family program: Airworthiness Office,
E-mail: account.airworth-eas@airbus.com

For A330 family program: Airworthiness Office,
E-mail: airworthiness.A330-A340@airbus.com

For A350 family program: Airworthiness Office,
E-mail: continued-airworthiness.a350@airbus.com

For A380 family program: Airworthiness Office,
E-mail: account.airworth-A380@airbus.com



Appendix 1 - Affected Part

Part Number	Designation
RD-AA903366-01	TOP KIT - Antenna System, PAC GCS, A350 Single Panel antenna (SPA)
RD-AA903008-01	TOP KIT - Antenna System, PAC GCS, A350 Dual Panel Antenna (DPA)
RD-AA903141-01	Adapter Plate Installation Kit DPA (A380)
RD-AA903194-01	Adapter Plate Installation Kit DPA (A330 family)
RD-AA903528-01	Adapter Plate Installation Kit SPA (A330 family)
RD-AA903465-01	Adapter Plate Installation Kit SPA (A320 family)



Appendix 2 – Compliance Time for A380 Aeroplanes

Group	Affected Aircraft Population	Compliance Time from SB publication date
A	Up to 3 years since date of Antenna system embodiment	Within 36 months
B	More than 3 and up to 5 years since date of Antenna system embodiment	Within 24 months
C	More than 5 and up to 6 years since date of Antenna system embodiment	Within 18 months
D	More than 6 and up to 7 years since date of Antenna system embodiment	Within 12 months
E	More than 7 and up to 8 years since date of Antenna system embodiment	Within 9 months
F	More than 8 years since date of Antenna system embodiment	Within 6 months

Table 1

OR

- within 36 months since last accomplishment of radome opening due to antenna repair or equivalent inspection in accordance with PAC instructions,

OR

- within 36 months after accomplishment of last venting louver inspection according to MPD task 443300-00004-01

whichever comes later

and, thereafter, at intervals not to exceed 36 months.

