

Notification of a Proposal to issue an Airworthiness Directive

PAD No.: 24-052

Issued: 17 May 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:

Type/Model designation(s):

ATR-GIE AVIONS DE TRANSPORT REGIONAL

ATR 42 and ATR 72 aeroplanes

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

TCDS Number(s): EASA.A.084

Foreign AD: Not applicable

Supersedure: None

ATA 55 – Stabilizers – Vertical Tail Plane Forward and Aft Fittings – Inspection

Manufacturer(s):

ATR-GIE Avions de Transport Régional, formerly EADS ATR - Alenia, Aerospatiale Matra ATR - ALENIA, Aerospatiale - Alenia, Aerospatiale – Aeritalia

Applicability:

ATR 42-500 aeroplanes, manufacturer serial number (MSN) 1215, 1216, 1401, 1416, 1419, 1610 and 1612; and

ATR 72-212A aeroplanes, MSN 0773, 1321, 1363, 1371, 1373, 1375, 1376, 1383, 1385, 1397, 1424, 1427, 1428, 1430, 1434, 1465 to 1467 inclusive, 1474, 1488, 1492, 1496, 1498, 1517, 1519, 1526, 1534, 1540, 1545, 1547, 1551, 1557, 1563, 1569, 1570, 1572, 1576, 1579, 1580, 1582 to 1585 inclusive, 1587, 1591, 1595, 1596, 1598, 1599, 1624, 1628, 1630, 1633 to 1636 inclusive, 1641 to 1643 inclusive, 1645, 1646, 1647, 1652, 1657, 1659, 1660 and 1691.

Definitions:

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

Affected parts: The forward lefthand (LH) and righthand (RH) side fuselage to vertical tail plane (VTP) fittings, having Part Number (P/N) S5537490120400 and P/N S5537490220400 respectively,



and the rear LH and RH side fuselage to VTP fittings, having P/N S5537490320000 and P/N S5537490420000 respectively, identified as 'to be inspected' in Figure 1 of the applicable SB (as defined in this AD); and the forward RH fuselage to VTP fitting, having P/N S5537490220400, installed on MSN 1598; and the rear LH fuselage to VTP fitting, having P/N S5537490320000, installed on MSN 1647.

Serviceable parts: LH and RH fuselage to VTP fittings, eligible for installation, which are not an affected part.

The applicable SB: ATR Service Bulletin (SB) ATR42-55-0021 Revision 03 or ATR SB ATR72-55-1014 Revision 03, as applicable.

The AOM: ATR Airworthiness Operator Message (AOM) 2023/02 issue 2.

Groups: Group 1 aeroplanes are MSN 1321, 1401, 1416, 1424, 1428, 1465, 1466, 1467, 1474, 1488, 1492, 1496, 1498, 1517, 1526, 1534, 1540, 1545, 1547, 1551, 1563, 1569, 1570, 1572, 1576, 1579, 1580, 1582, 1584, 1585, 1587, 1591, 1596, 1599, 1610, 1612, 1628, 1630, 1633, 1634, 1641, 1643, 1645, 1652 and 1657.

Group 2 aeroplanes are MSN 0773, 1215, 1216, 1363, 1371, 1373, 1375, 1376, 1383, 1385, 1397, 1419, 1427, 1430, 1434, 1519, 1557, 1583, 1595, 1624, 1635, 1636, 1642, 1646, 1659, 1660 and 1691.

Group 3 aeroplanes are MSN 1598 and 1647.

Reason:

A potential use of improper material during the production of VTP fittings was reported. Further to this supplier production quality escape, subsequent review identified the affected parts population and the aeroplanes equipped with affected parts.

This condition, if not detected and corrected, could reduce the structural integrity of the aeroplane.

To address this potential unsafe condition, ATR issued the applicable SB and the AOM to provide inspection instructions.

For the reason described above, this AD requires a one-time special detailed inspection (SDI) of the affected parts 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 action(s) required by this AD have been already accomplished:

Inspection:

- (1) For Group 1 and Group 2 aeroplanes: Within the compliance time as defined in Table 1 of this AD, as applicable, accomplish an SDI of each affected part in accordance with the instructions of the applicable SB and the AOM.



Table 1 – Inspection Compliance Time

Group	Compliance Time
1	Within 6 months after the effective date of this AD
2	Within 12 months after the effective date of this AD

Corrective Action(s):

- (2) If, during the SDI as required by paragraph (1) of this AD, it is determined that an affected part is made of material other than AL7050-T7542, excluding AL7075-T651 (see paragraph (3) of this AD), before next flight, contact ATR for approved repair instructions and, within the compliance time specified therein, accomplish those instructions accordingly.
- (3) If, during the SDI as required by paragraph (1) of this AD, it is determined that an affected part is made of AL7075-T651, before exceeding 39 249 flight cycles (FC) since new, replace the affected part with a serviceable part, as defined in this AD, in accordance with approved ATR maintenance instructions.

Credit:

- (4) For Group 1 and Group 2 aeroplanes: Inspections and corrective action(s), accomplished on an aeroplane before the effective date of this AD in accordance with the instructions of the ATR SB ATR42-55-0021 original issue, Revision 01, Revision 02, or SB ATR72-55-1014 original issue, Revision 01, Revision 02, as applicable, are acceptable to comply with the requirements of the paragraphs (1), (2) and (3) of this AD for that aeroplane.

Reporting:

- (5) Within 10 days after accomplishment of the SDI as required by paragraph (1) of this AD, report the inspection results (including no findings) to ATR. This can be accomplished in accordance with the instructions of the SB.

Part(s) Replacement:

- (6) For Group 3 aeroplanes: Before exceeding 39 249 FC since new, replace each affected part with a serviceable part, in accordance with approved ATR maintenance instructions.

Ref. Publications:

ATR SB ATR42-55-0021 original issue dated 25 January 2023, or Revision 01 dated 17 February 2023, or Revision 02 dated 31 March 2023, or Revision 03 dated 25 April 2024.

ATR SB ATR72-55-1014 original issue dated 25 January 2023, or Revision 01 dated 17 February 2023, or Revision 02 dated 31 March 2023, or Revision 03 dated 25 April 2024.

ATR AOM 2023/02 issue 1 dated 31 January 2023, or issue 2 dated 13 May 2024.

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 14 June 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.
5. For any question concerning the technical content of the requirements in this PAD, please contact: ATR - GIE Avions de Transport Régional, Continued Airworthiness Service, Telephone: +33 (0)5 62 21 62 21, Fax: +33 (0) 5 62 21 67 18; E-mail: continued.airworthiness@atr-aircraft.com.

