



## Airworthiness Directive

**AD No.:** 2026-0135

**Issued:** 09 July 2026

Note: This Airworthiness Directive (AD) 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.

This AD is issued in accordance with Regulation (EU) 748/2012, Part 21.A.3B. In accordance with Regulation (EU) 1321/2014 Annex I Part M.A.301, or Annex Vb Part ML.A.301, as applicable, the continuing airworthiness of an aircraft shall be ensured by accomplishing any applicable ADs. Consequently, no person may operate an aircraft to which an AD applies, except in accordance with the requirements of that AD, unless otherwise specified by the Agency [Regulation (EU) 1321/2014 Annex I Part M.A.303, or Annex Vb Part ML.A.303, as applicable] or agreed with the Authority of the State of Registry [Regulation (EU) 2018/1139, Article 71 exemption].

**Design Change Approval Holder's Name:**      **Modification(s):**

ELBE FLUGZEUGWERKE GmbH

Airbus A330 Passenger to Freighter  
Conversion

**Effective Date:** 23 July 2026

**STC Number(s):** EASA Supplemental Type Certificate (STC) 10063798

**Foreign AD:** Not applicable

**Supersedure:** None

### ATA 53 – Fuselage – Rear Fuselage – Inspections

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**Manufacturer(s):**

Airbus, formerly Airbus Industrie

**Applicability:**

Airbus A330 aeroplanes modified in accordance with EASA STC 10063798 up to revision (rev.) 43.

**Definitions:**

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

**The Airbus SB:** Airbus Service Bulletin (SB) A330-53-3299.

**The inspection SB:** Elbe Flugzeugwerke GmbH (EFW) SB EFW-SB-53-0217 rev. 03.

**The modification SB:** EFW SB EFW-SB-53-0215.

**Groups:**

- Group 1 aeroplanes are those having the Airbus SB embodied, and which are not Group 2 and are not Group 3. The inspection SB provides a list of aeroplanes (Config 001) which, on the issue date of that SB, have been determined to be Group 1 by EFW. For the purpose of this AD, that list is provided for information only.



- Group 2 aeroplanes are those having the Airbus SB embodied, and listed as Config 002 in the inspection SB.
- Group 3 aeroplanes are those having the Airbus SB embodied, and listed as Config 003 in the inspection SB.
- Group 4 aeroplanes are those not having the Airbus SB embodied.

**Reason:**

Airbus issued the Airbus SB as a terminating action for the repetitive special detailed inspection (SDI) tasks 534017-01-01 and 534017-02-01. These tasks were introduced in the A330 Airworthiness Limitations Section Part 2 (ALI) and made mandatory by EASA AD 2019-0315R1.

The Airbus SB affects the area modified by EASA STC 10063798. The design solution of the STC requires larger fasteners at multiple locations than those required per Airbus SB design. Implementation of the Airbus SB without adaptation to the STC design, in combination with the cancellation of the repetitive SDI tasks 534017-01-01 and 534017-02-01, may lead to undetected crack development.

This condition, if not detected and corrected, could affect the structural integrity of the area affected by the STC, possibly resulting in rapid depressurization and consequent injury to occupants.

To address this potential unsafe condition, EFW issued the inspection SB to:

- determine the exact configuration of the affected area by maintenance documents review and a one-time physical inspection; and
- provide instructions for repetitive SDI for aeroplanes having the Airbus SB embodied.

In addition, EFW issued the modification SB, which constitutes terminating action for the repetitive inspections as defined in the inspection SB.

For the reason described above, this AD requires a one-time and repetitive inspections of certain aeroplanes having the Airbus SB embodied, and introduces a concurrent modification requirement for aeroplanes not having the Airbus SB embodied.

After the publication of the Proposal to issue this AD, referencing EFW SB EFW-SB-53-0217 rev. 02, EFW issued SB EFW-SB-53-0217 rev. 03. Additional consultation has not been considered in the interest of operators.

**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:

**Modification:**

- (1) For Group 4 aeroplanes: From the effective date of this AD, it is allowed to modify an aeroplane in accordance with the instructions of the Airbus SB provided that, concurrently with that modification, the aeroplane is modified in accordance with the instructions of the modification SB.



**One-time Inspection:**

- (2) For Group 1 and 3 aeroplanes: Within 2 600 flight cycles (FC) since Airbus SB embodiment, perform the ‘one-time inspection of structure’ in accordance with the instructions of the inspection SB.

**Repetitive Inspection:**

- (3) For Group 1 aeroplanes: Within 2 600 FC since Airbus SB embodiment and, thereafter, at intervals not exceeding 1 200 FC or 8 000 flight hours (FH), whichever occurs first (for FH optimized), or at intervals not exceeding 1 500 FC or 5 000 FH, whichever occurs first (for FC optimized), perform the ‘repetitive inspection of structure to ensure continued airworthiness’ in accordance with the instructions of the inspection SB.

**Corrective Actions(s):**

- (4) If, during any inspection as required by paragraph (2) or (3) of this AD, as applicable, any discrepancy is detected, before next flight, accomplish the applicable corrective actions in accordance with the instructions of the inspection SB. Where the inspection SB provides instruction to “stop work and contact EFW”, this AD requires to contact EFW for repair instructions and to accomplish those instructions accordingly.

**Terminating Action:**

- (5) For Group 1 aeroplanes: Modification of an aeroplane in accordance with the instruction of the modification SB constitutes terminating action for the ‘repetitive inspection of structure’ as required by paragraph (3) of this AD for that aeroplane.

**Credit:**

- (6) Inspections and corrective actions, as applicable, accomplished on an aeroplane before the effective date of this AD in accordance with the instructions of SB EFW-SB-53-0217 original issue, Rev. 01 or Rev. 02, are acceptable for compliance with the requirements of paragraph (2), (3) and (4), as applicable, for that aeroplane.

**Ref. Publications:**

EFW SB EFW-SB-53-0217 original issue dated 17 February 2026, Rev. 01 dated 06 March 2026, Rev. 02 dated 18 March 2026 and Rev. 03 dated 04 May 2026.

EFW SB EFW-SB-53-0215 original issue dated 06 March 2026.

The use of later approved revisions of the above-mentioned documents is acceptable for compliance with the requirements of this AD.

**Remarks:**

1. If requested and appropriately substantiated, EASA can approve Alternative Methods of Compliance for this AD.
2. This AD was posted on 01 June 2026 as PAD 26-070 for consultation until 29 June 2026. The Comment Response Document can be found in the [EASA Safety Publications Tool](#), in the compressed (zipped) file attached to the record for this AD.



3. Enquiries regarding this AD should be referred to the EASA Safety Information Section, Certification Directorate; E-mail: [ADs@easa.europa.eu](mailto:ADs@easa.europa.eu).
4. Information about any failures, malfunctions, defects or other occurrences, which may be similar to the unsafe condition addressed by this AD, and which may occur, or have occurred on a product, part or appliance not affected by this AD, 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 AD 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 AD, please contact EFW Office of Airworthiness, [airworthiness@efw.aero](mailto:airworthiness@efw.aero).

