

AIRWORTHINESS DIRECTIVE

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Inspection and/or modifications described below are mandatory. No person may operate a product to which this Airworthiness Directive applies except in accordance with the requirements of this Airworthiness Directive.

Translation of 'Consigne de Navigabilité' ref. : 1997-008-058(B) R2
In case of any difficulty, reference should be made to the French original issue.

AIRBUS

A340 aircraft

Main landing gear -
Operational check of delay valve and check valve (ATA 32)

1. APPLICABILITY:

AIRBUS A340 aircraft models -211, -212, -213, -311, -312 and -313, all serial numbers, except those which have received either AIRBUS modification 43863 or 45031 (AIRBUS Service Bulletin (SB) A340-32-4092) or modification 43029, and fitted with retraction brackets assemblies with the following Part Numbers (P/N):

201428224, 201428225, 201428226, 201428227, 201428251, 201428252, 201428253, 201428254, 201478207, 201478208, 201478210, 201478211 (all serial numbers).

and

201478217 (serial number 0018WHM or 0022WHM), 201478218 (serial number 0034WHM or 0041WHM), 201478220 (serial number 0003WHM), 201478221 (serial number 0031WHM).

Note 1: These retraction brackets assemblies have been fitted on production aircraft in accordance with the effectivity as specified under paragraph 1.A of the AIRBUS SB A340-32-4082 or have been possibly fitted on in service aircraft.

2. REASONS:

During the machining of the retraction brackets, which are made of titanium, the parts were insufficiently protected from spatter (molten globules of titanium) caused by grinding.

Due to this, the life limit of the retraction brackets may be affected, depending on the condition of the delay valve and the check valve.

This Airworthiness Directive (AD) consists in verifying the fatigue status of these retraction brackets.

Revision 1 of this AD introduced a grace period for aircraft which have already exceeded 2,400 landings and gives more details concerning the "Applicability" paragraph.

Revision 2 of this AD consists of amendment of the "Applicability" paragraph which limits AIRBUS A340 aircraft models as listed in the paragraph 1.

3. COMPLIANCE:

Unless already accomplished, the following measures are rendered mandatory from the effective date of this AD at original issue:

3.1. Before accumulation of 2,400 landings or within 200 landings for aircraft which have already exceeded 2,400 landings, whichever occurs later, perform the operational check of the delay valve and of the check valve which are located on the main landing gear (RH and LH) in accordance with the instructions given in AIRBUS SB A340-32-4082.

3.2. Dependant on the results of the operational check, accomplish either one or the other of the following actions:

3.2.1. The operational check results are not satisfactory:

- Before next flight following the operational check required in paragraph 3.1., replace the delay valve and check valve of the main landing gear (RH and/or LH) in accordance with the instructions given in AIRBUS SB A340-32-4082.
- Before accumulation of 3250 landings replace the retraction brackets assembly of the main landing gear (RH and/or LH) in accordance with the instructions given in AIRBUS SB A340-32-4092.

3.2.2. The operational check results are satisfactory:

- Before accumulation of 4,300 landings, replace the retraction brackets assembly of the landing gear (RH and/or LH) in accordance with the instructions given in AIRBUS SB A340-32-4092.

3.3. Full accomplishment of AIRBUS SB A340-32-4092 cancels the requirements of this AD and reverts to the current MPD A340 sub-section 9-1 requirements.

Note 2: After replacement of these retraction brackets assemblies refer to MPD A340 sub-section 9-1.

REF.: AIRBUS Service Bulletin A340-32-4082
AIRBUS Service Bulletin A340-32-4092
(any later approved revisions of these SB's are acceptable).

This Revision 2 replaces AD 97-008-058(B) R1 dated April 09, 1997.

EFFECTIVE DATES :

Original AD : JANUARY 11, 1997
Revision 1 : APRIL 19, 1997
Revision 2 : MARCH 01, 2003