

AIRWORTHINESS DIRECTIVE

released by DIRECTION GENERALE DE L'AVIATION CIVILE

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. : 1999-448-126(B)
In case of any difficulty, reference should be made to the French original issue.

AIRBUS INDUSTRIE

A340 aircraft

Reinforcement of frame 40 (ATA 53)

APPLICABILITY:

AIRBUS INDUSTRIE A340 aircraft models -211, -212, -213, -311, -312, -313 which have not received AIRBUS INDUSTRIE modification 45899 (or AIRBUS INDUSTRIE Service Bulletin A340-53-4104 at initial issue or any further approved revision).

REASONS:

1. To prevent crack initiation and propagation in several parts of the fuselage at frame 40 (at the front fitting, the connecting bracket, the circumferential strap, stringer 40 and on the fuselage skin), as evidenced during fatigue tests and which could lead to a reduced structural integrity.
2. Airworthiness Directive 1999-177-118(B) dealing with the same subject is cancelled and replaced by this Airworthiness Directive further to the more restrictive new thresholds defined by the manufacturer.

COMPLIANCE:

The following measures are rendered mandatory on the effective date of this Airworthiness Directive, unless already previously accomplished:

Configuration 1:

Aircraft which have not received in production AIRBUS INDUSTRIE modification 41650.

- Before accumulation of 6170 flights or 35270 flight hours since first flight, whichever occurs first, reinforce the frame 40 in accordance with the instructions given in the AIRBUS INDUSTRIE Service Bulletin A340-53-4104 Revision 2.

Configuration 2:

Aircraft which have received in production AIRBUS INDUSTRIE modification 41650.

For A340-311, -312, -313 aircraft:

- Before accumulation of 5260 flights or 28790 flight hours since first flight, whichever occurs first, reinforce the frame 40 in accordance with the instructions given in the AIRBUS INDUSTRIE Service Bulletin A340-53-4104 Revision 2.

For A340-211, -212, -213 aircraft:

- Before accumulation of 6500 flights or 42000 flight hours since first flight, whichever occurs first, reinforce the frame 40 in accordance with the instructions given in the AIRBUS INDUSTRIE Service Bulletin A340-53-4104 Revision 2.

Note : To minimize the risk of extensive damage that could lead to expensive repairs and extended grounding of the aircraft, it is recommended by the manufacturer to accomplish AIRBUS INDUSTRIE Service Bulletin A340-53-4104 Revision 2:

- Before accumulation of 3100 flights or 20600 flight hours, whichever occurs first for aircraft which have not received AIRBUS INDUSTRIE modification 41650 (configuration 1),
- Before accumulation of 2600 flights or 17100 flight hours, whichever occurs first for aircraft which have received AIRBUS INDUSTRIE modification 41650 (configuration 2).

REF. : AIRBUS INDUSTRIE Service Bulletin A340-53-4104 Revision 2
(Or any further approved revisions)

This Airworthiness Directive replaces AD 1999-177-118(B) which is cancelled by its Revision 1.

EFFECTIVE DATE : NOVEMBER 13, 1999