

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. : 1999-528-130(B)
In case of any difficulty, reference should be made to the French original issue.

AIRBUS INDUSTRIE

A340 aircraft

Center fuselage - Lower keelbeam fitting
and forward lower shell connection at frame 40 (ATA 57)

APPLICABILITY:

This Airworthiness Directive applies to all AIRBUS INDUSTRIE A340 aircraft models -211, -212, -213, -311, -312 and -313 which have not received any of the following combinations of modifications or Service Bulletins :

- AIRBUS INDUSTRIE modification 43577 or AIRBUS INDUSTRIE Service Bulletin A340-57-4036 at original issue or any further approved revisions,
- AIRBUS INDUSTRIE modifications 41652 and 44440,
- AIRBUS INDUSTRIE modifications 41652 and 44360.

REASONS:

1. To prevent crack initiation or propagation at the crossing area of the keelbeam fitting and the front spar of the center wing box at frame 40, LH and RH, as evidenced during fatigue tests and which could lead to a reduced structural integrity.
2. The Airworthiness Directive 98-459-102(B) dealing with the same subject is cancelled and replaced by this Airworthiness Directive further to the more restrictive Flight Cycles and Flight Hours thresholds defined by the manufacturer.

COMPLIANCE:

The following measures are rendered mandatory, unless already previously accomplished :

- Before accumulation of 4400 cycles or 27500 flight hours since new, whichever occurs first, modify the concerned area in accordance with the instructions given in SB A340-57-4036 Revision 5.

Note 1:

For aircraft which have received modification 41652 in production and which have not received modification 44440 or 44360 refer to AD 98-027-080(B).

Note 2:

To avoid extensive damage and extended grounding of the aircraft, it is strongly recommended by the manufacturer to accomplish the SB A340-57-4036 Revision 5 before accumulation of 3300 cycles or 20800 flight hours, whichever occurs first.

REF.: AIRBUS INDUSTRIE Service Bulletin A340-57-4036 Revision 5
(or any further approved revision)

EFFECTIVE DATE : JANUARY 08, 2000