

# 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. : 2000-236-150(B) R1  
In case of any difficulty, reference should be made to the French original issue.

## AIRBUS INDUSTRIE

### A340 aircraft

Rear doors of centre landing gear -  
Inspection and replacement of the forward hinge fitting (ATA 52)

#### APPLICABILITY:

AIRBUS INDUSTRIE A340 aircraft models -211, -212, -213, -311, -312 and -313 which have not received AIRBUS INDUSTRIE modification 46869 (or AIRBUS INDUSTRIE Service Bulletin (SB) A340-52-4067 at the Revision 3 or any later approved revision).

#### REASONS:

Loss of the inboard part of the R/H CLG rear door of the first development aircraft in flight has been reported.

Following this event, the investigations revealed that the loss was due to fatigue failure of the forward hinge fitting of the door.

In order to prevent and detect initiation of cracks at the forward hinge fitting of the CLG rear doors, which could at worst lead to the loss of the door and cause structural damage to the belly fairing or other part of the aircraft structure, an inspection was rendered mandatory as per Airworthiness Directive (AD) 1999-241-113(B).

AD 1999-241-113(B), dealing with the same subject, is cancelled by its revision 4 and replaced by this AD.

This AD is taking over the inspection as previously done with AD 1999-241-113(B) up to accomplishment of the terminating action in accordance with the threshold as indicated below.

Further to a new loss of a CLG aft door during flight, it was evident that an operator reused a bolt with an insufficient length for the replacement of the forward hinge fitting as required by the paragraph B of this AD.

The Revision 1 of this AD takes into account SB A340-52-4067 at revision 3, which adds a kit with additional bolts to be used in case of insufficient length noticed during installation. In addition, the Revision 1 of this AD introduces an inspection of the aircraft already modified.

#### ACTIONS:

In order to maintain the structural integrity of the hinge fitting, the following measures are rendered mandatory on the effective date of this AD.

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**A. INSPECTION**

1. At the following thresholds whichever occurs later:

- prior accumulation of 1,300 flight cycles (FC) following the first installation of the rear landing gear doors on the aircraft, or
- at the latest within 500 FC counted from effective date of AD 1999-241-113(B) on June 26, 1999 at initial issue for the rear doors which had accumulated more than 1,300 FC without exceeding 2,000FC at this date, or
- at the latest within 200 FC counted from effective date of the Airworthiness Directive 1999-241-113(B) on June 26, 1999 at initial issue for the rear doors which had accumulated more than 2,000 FC at this date,

perform a detailed visual inspection or an HFEC of the forward hinge of the R/H and L/H CLG rear doors in accordance with the instructions of SB A340-52-4065 R1.

2. Depending upon the inspection results:

- 2.1. Replace if necessary the hinge fitting(s) at the given thresholds and in accordance with the instructions of AIRBUS INDUSTRIE Service Bulletin A340-52-4065 R1.
- 2.2. Repeat the inspection of the hinge fitting(s) at interval not to exceed:
  - 150 FC for the hinge fitting(s) which have been previously visually inspected,
  - 320 FC for the hinge fitting(s) that have been HFEC inspected.
- 2.3. For the hinge fitting(s) new installed in place of damaged hinge fittings of same design as indicated under paragraph 2.1. above, perform an inspection (detailed visual inspection or HFEC) before accumulation of 1,300 FC following the replacement of the hinge fitting(s) and repeat the inspections at intervals as indicated under paragraph 2.2. above.
- 2.4. Report to AIRBUS INDUSTRIE all inspection results whatever they may be.

**B. MODIFICATION**

1. Not later than October 31, 2001 replace the forward hinge fitting of the L/H and R/H CLG rear doors in accordance with the instructions of SB A340-52-4067 R3.
2. For the aircraft on which the fittings have already been replaced on the effective date on this AD in accordance with the instructions of SB A340-52-4067 revision 1 or 2, at the latest October 31, 2001 check on aircraft that the installed bolts have thread protruding of at least 0.8 mm, as specified in the SB A340-52-4067R3.

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**REF.:** AIRBUS INDUSTRIE Service Bulletin A340-52-4065 R1  
AIRBUS INDUSTRIE Service Bulletin A340-52-4067 R3  
(any later approved revision of these SB's is acceptable).

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This Revision 1 replaces original AD 2000-236-150(B) dated June 14, 2000.

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**EFFECTIVE DATES :**

**Original AD : JUNE 24, 2000**  
**Revision 1 : JULY 07, 2001**