

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. : 2000-450-158(B) R1
In case of any difficulty, reference should be made to the French original issue.

AIRBUS INDUSTRIE

A340 aircraft

CFM56-5C engines - Inspection of exhaust centerbody and modification (ATA 78)

APPLICABILITY:

This Airworthiness Directive (AD) applies to AIRBUS INDUSTRIE A340 aircraft models -211, -212, -213, -311, -312 and -313, all serial numbers equipped with CFM 56-5C engines fitted with exhaust centerbody, P/N 340-6001-505 S/N 598 001 through 781 001 inclusive, from BF GOODRICH and manufactured by TRI-INDUSTRIES INC, not in service retrofitted with AIRBUS INDUSTRIE Service Bulletin (SB) A340-78-4022.

REASONS:

A recent event has been reported by an A340 operator where a 23 inches crack has been found on a centerbody (P/N 340-6001-505). This event occurred between two inspections as required by AD 2000-144-144(B), with a repetitive interval defined at 300 flight hours.

This new AD is issued in order to reduce the inspection interval to 100 flight hours and to mandate the terminative action described in paragraph 5 here after mentioned.

The reasons for these centerbody cracks/ruptures are identical to those already explained in AD 2000-144-144(B), namely, investigation results revealed metal sheet thickness out of tolerances, generated by a mismatch at the weld joint location and these external mismatches between the forward and aft sections of the centerbody made flush, a condition that is suspected to have induced a stress resulting in crack initiation.

This condition, if not corrected, might lead to detachment of the centerbody aft section and its subsequent loss in flight.

This AD replaces AD 2000-144-144(B) dealing with the same subject.

Reason for Revision 1: Since the introduction of the 100 flight hours inspection interval, only 4 centerbody cracks have been reported, none of these cracks exceeding 57 mm. Based on this fact, and in order to reduce the maintenance burden generated by this retrofit, it has been decided to extend the terminating action compliance time from December 31, 2001, to December 31, 2002.

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COMPLIANCE:

The following measures are rendered mandatory at the effective date of this AD.

1. Within 150 flight hours from April 15th, 2000 (effective date of AD 2000-144-144 at initial issue), or within 100 flight hours since last inspection performed in accordance with SB A340-78A4019 R3, or within 50 flight hours from the effective date of this AD, whichever occurs later, inspect and repair if necessary the centerbody (P/N 340-6001-505) of each CFM56-5C engine in accordance with the instructions given in SB A340-78A4019 R3.
2. Whenever high N1 and/or N2 vibration are noticed (Cockpit vibration advisory), regardless of cumulated centerbody flight hours, perform the inspection before next flight which follows this vibrations and should the need arises proceed with the repair as indicated in paragraph 1 mentioned above.
3. Repeat inspections and if necessary proceed with repair as indicated in paragraph 1 mentioned above at intervals not exceeding 100 flight hours.
4. Report the Inspection results to AIRBUS INDUSTRIE whatever the findings are.
5. Not later than December 31, 2002, reinforce the centerbody (P/N 340-6001-505) of each CFM56-5C engine in accordance with SB A340-78-4022, which allows to cancel the requirements of inspection of this AD.

Note: AIRBUS INDUSTRIE SB A340-78A4019 R3 will be revised later on to take into account the reduced inspection interval.

REF.: Service Bulletin AIRBUS INDUSTRIE A340-78A4019 R3
Service Bulletin AIRBUS INDUSTRIE A340-78-4022
Any further approved revision of these documents is acceptable.

This Revision 1 replaces the original AD 2000-450-158(B) issued on November 15, 2000.

EFFECTIVE DATES :

Original AD : NOVEMBER 25, 2000
Revision 1 : SEPTEMBER 15, 2001