

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. : 2001-075(B)
In case of any difficulty, reference should be made to the French original issue.

AIRBUS INDUSTRIE

A330 aircraft

Reinforcement of fuselage between FR 31 and FR 37.1 (ATA 53)

APPLICABILITY:

AIRBUS INDUSTRIE A330 aircraft, models -301, -321, -322, -323, -341, -342 and -343, except aircraft which have received AIRBUS INDUSTRIE modification 46636 in production or modified in service in accordance with AIRBUS INDUSTRIE Service Bulletin (SB) A330-53-3090 at original issue or any further approved revision.

REASONS:

It was evident during fuselage fatigue tests cracks, initiation and propagation in the longitudinal buttstrap at stringer 9 between frame 35 and 37 and at frame 31 (stringer 9 to 15) and at frame 37.1 (stringer 5 to 15).

This situation, if not corrected, could lead to reduced fuselage structural integrity.

COMPLIANCE:

The following measures are rendered mandatory on the effective date of this Airworthiness Directive (AD):

1. Unless already accomplished, before accumulation of 15,000 flights since first flight, perform, after removal of the fasteners, a roto-test inspection of the fasteners holes of the affected fuselage joints, in accordance with the instructions given in the SB A330-53-3090 Revision 2.
2. If no crack is found, reinforce the fuselage structure between frame 31 and 37.1 in accordance with the requirement of the SB A330-53-3090 Revision 2.
3. If necessary, perform an additional HFEC inspection if the inspection required by the paragraph 1 of this AD has revealed cracks, then contact AIRBUS INDUSTRIE before next flight in order to define a suitable repair solution.

REF.: AIRBUS INDUSTRIE Service Bulletin A330-53-3090 Revision 2
(any further approved revision of this SB is acceptable).

EFFECTIVE DATE : MARCH 17, 2001