

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. : 2002-032(B)
In case of any difficulty, reference should be made to the French original issue.

AIRBUS INDUSTRIE

A320 aircraft

Fuselage - Frame 35 reinforcement between stringer 30 and 31 (ATA 53)

APPLICABILITY:

AIRBUS INDUSTRIE A320 aircraft, models -111, -211 and -231, all serial numbers, except aircraft which have received AIRBUS INDUSTRIE modification 20903 in production (AIRBUS INDUSTRIE Service Bulletin (SB) A320-53-1137 in operation).

REASONS:

Prevent the initiation of cracks in the frame 35, between the stringers 30 and 31, right hand and left hand sides of the fuselage. These cracks, identified during the fatigue tests, would affect the structural integrity of the aircraft.

Airworthiness Directive (AD) 98-154-113(B) mandated the modification of six fasteners (installation of HI-LOCK interference fit fasteners).

The threshold figure stated for this modification was defined on the basis of full-scale fatigue tests. Since then, a survey, carried out on the A320 family fleet, has highlighted some differences between the mission parameters of in service aircraft and those initially considered. The differences are mainly on the weight of fuel at landing and on the average flight time, which are higher than those defined for the analysis of the fatigue related tasks.

This has led to an adjustment of the A320 family reference fatigue mission. Consequently, revised threshold for the accomplishment of this modification has been introduced by this AD.

ACTIONS:

Before accumulation of 18,400 flight cycles or within 3,500 flight cycles from the effective date of this AD, whichever occurs later without exceeding 20,000 flight cycles since the first flight, unless already accomplished, replace the six concerned fasteners, after inspection of the holes in accordance with SB A320-53-1137.

REF.: AIRBUS INDUSTRIE Service Bulletin A320-53-1137
(Any later approved revision of this SB is acceptable).

This Airworthiness Directive replaces AD 98-154-113(B) which is cancelled.

EFFECTIVE DATE : JANUARY 19, 2002

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January 09, 2002

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