

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. : 2002-259(B)
In case of any difficulty, reference should be made to the French original issue.

AIRBUS

A320 aircraft

Fuselage -

Inspection of fastener holes around emergency exits (frames FR38 to FR41) (ATA 53)

APPLICABILITY:

A320 AIRBUS aircraft models -111, -211, -212 and -231, all serial numbers except aircraft on which AIRBUS modification 21346 has been embodied in production (or AIRBUS INDUSTRIE Service Bulletin (SB) A320-53-1031 in service).

REASONS:

The purpose of Airworthiness Directive (AD) 97-313-107(B) was to mandate inspection of fastener holes at frame 38 through 41 between stringer 12 and 21 left and right hand sides.

The threshold and the interval figures were 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 mean flight duration, 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 and intervals for the accomplishment of this inspection have been introduced.

COMPLIANCE:

The following measures are rendered mandatory on the effective date of this AD:

1. Before accumulation of 24,800 flight cycles or within 3,500 flight cycles from the effective date of this AD whichever comes later without exceeding the accumulation of 30,000 flight cycles since first flight, perform a detail visual inspection around the fastener holes and repair if required, in accordance with the instructions given in SB A320-53-1032 Revision 2.

2. Depending on the results of the previous inspection, repeat the same inspection in accordance with the instructions and the intervals given in SB A320-53-1032 Revision 2.

No additional inspection is requested after total accomplishment of SB A320-53-1031 at original issue (cold expansion of fastener holes).

REF.: AIRBUS INDUSTRIE Service Bulletin A320-53-1032 Revision 2
AIRBUS INDUSTRIE Service Bulletin A320-53-1031
(Any later approved revisions of both SB's is acceptable).

This AD replaces AD 97-313-107(B) which is cancelled.

EFFECTIVE DATE : MAY 25, 2002

SUPERSEDED