

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. : 2002-431(B)
In case of any difficulty, reference should be made to the French original issue.

ATR

ATR 42 aircraft

Flight controls - Pitch control interference (ATA 27, 55)

1. APPLICABILITY:

ATR 42-400, and -500 series aircraft models on which ATR modification 5385 (Service Bulletin ATR 42-55-0009) has not been embodied.

2. REASONS:

During functional test, it was found that in a full up elevator condition with tab fully down, interference could arise between tab rod and forward edge of the elevator lower skin.

This particular condition of elevator and tab is not usually utilized and is unlikely. Nevertheless, it cannot be completely excluded that both LH and RH elevators can reach the upper stop and, because of the interference, remain in this position.

In order to avoid this occurrence the ATR modification 5385 has been developed and introduced in production aircraft. This modification requires the increase of the cut out of the elevator skin in order to recover acceptable clearances that permit a fully free travel of the pitch tab rod.

In addition, a possible contact between the tab rod and the clamping of an electrical bonding lead, installed on elevator lower skin, was also found. This contact could prevent the elevator from reaching the upper stop and leading to a potential tab rod damage. This interference results from a mislocated fastener.

In order to avoid this occurrence, an inspection Service Bulletin (SB) has been issued in order to recover a correct installation of the fastener when necessary.

The actions rendered mandatory by this Airworthiness Directive (AD) are intended to prevent the unlikely interference between the elevator and the tab rod, which could result in reduced controllability of the aircraft.

3. COMPLIANCE:

At the first opportunity and within 2 years from the effective date of this AD:

- inspect and, if necessary, correct the installation of mislocated fastener according to instructions of SB ATR 42-55-0010,
- increase the gap between the elevator skin and the tab rod according to the instructions of SB ATR 42-55-0009.

REF.: Service Bulletin ATR 42-55-0009
Service Bulletin ATR 42-55-0010
Any later approved revision of these SB 's is acceptable.

EFFECTIVE DATE : AUGUST 31, 2002