Airworthiness Directive of The Netherlands
Bijzondere Luchtwaardigheids Aanwijzing - BLA

BLA nr: 1996-103 (A)
Date: August 30, 1996

FOKKER SERVICES B.V.
(formerly Fokker Aircraft B.V.)
Model F.28 Series
Type Certificate Nr: A23F

LANDING GEAR - MLG TORQUE LINK DAMPERS - INSTALLATION

Description:
Over the past twenty years, some 34 Main Landing Gear (MLG) Torque Link failures have been reported on Fokker F.28 Mk.1000 through Mk.4000 series aircraft. Most investigations revealed one or more deficiencies, such as excessive play in hinges and bearings, too high nitrogen pressure, worn or non-approved tires, or too high tire pressure. These deficiencies cause reduced natural stability of the MLG in a lateral and torsional mode during landing. Also, apart from design properties and associated maintenance program and instructions, MLG stability ultimately depends on the quality of the maintenance that is performed on it. For this reason, Fokker has now issued Service Bulletin (SB) F28/32-151, which, next to a recommended Further Optimized Maintenance Program (Part 1), offers the installation of a Torque Link Damper (Part 2), to offset the detrimental effects of any deficiencies as described. However, in-service experience with maintenance programs has shown that not all operators succeed in effectively eliminating MLG Torque Link failures. Since a potentially unsafe condition may still exist or develop on aircraft of this type design, the present Airworthiness Directive (BLA) requires the installation of Torque Link Dampers on all Model F.28 Mk.1000 through Mk.4000 aircraft. The current version of the SB only includes instructions to modify Mk.1000 and Mk.2000 series, but the next revision will add the other models. As an interim measure, RLD requires the accomplishment of the Further Optimized Maintenance Program until the Torque Link Damper has been installed.

Applicability: Fokker Aircraft B.V. Model F.28 Mk.1000 through Mk.4000 series, all serial numbers.

Effective date: September 15, 1996.

Compliance: Required as indicated, unless accomplished previously.

(a) Within the next 1,000 flight cycles (FC) after the effective date of this directive, and thereafter at intervals not to exceed 1,000 FC, inspect the MLG Torque Link center joint in accordance with Part 1.D. of the Accomplishment Instructions of Fokker SBF28/32-151 dated August 9, 1996 or a later RLD-approved revision;

(b) Within the next 3,000 FC after the effective date of this directive, and thereafter at intervals not to exceed 3,000 FC, inspect the MLG assembly in accordance with Parts 1.A., 1.B. and 1.C. of the Accomplishment Instructions of Fokker SBF28/32-151 dated August 9, 1996 or a later RLD-approved revision;

(c) Within the next 30 calendar months after the effective date of this directive, install Torque Link Dampers and associated sub-assemblies in accordance with Part 2 of the Accomplishment Instructions of Fokker SBF28/32-151 dated August 9, 1996 or a later RLD-approved revision. After the installation of the dampers, the inspections of paragraphs (a) and (b) of this directive are no longer required, and the regular maintenance program is again applicable.

(d) After installation of the Torque Link Dampers as required by paragraph (c) of this directive, amend the aircraft's Maintenance Schedule to include a check of the damper's oil level at intervals not to exceed 250 flight hours; and to include a scheduled overhaul of each damper, concurrent with the overhaul of the MLG on which it is installed, in accordance with Part 2.P. of the Accomplishment Instructions of Fokker SBF28/32-151 dated August 9, 1996 or a later RLD-approved revision.
Remarks:
- Operators of the affected aircraft may obtain copies of the referenced service information upon request directly from Fokker Services B.V., Technical Support Dept., P.O.Box 75047, 1117 ZN Schiphol Airport, The Netherlands; telephone (31) 20-605-2136; facsimile (31) 20-605-2790.
- Compliance with this AD must be recorded in the proper Aircraft Log Book(s).
- Where applicable, the requirements of this AD must be integrated into the aircraft's Maintenance Schedule.

Address inquiries concerning this AD to:
Bureau Coordination & Technical Information (CTI);
Telephone 31-(0)23-566 3155; Facsimile 31-(0)23-562 3048; Telex 74592 rdlil nl