

	AIRWORTHINESS DIRECTIVE No F-2004-141	Distribution: B	Issue date: August 18, 2004	Page : 1/2
Direction générale de l'aviation civile France GSAC publication	This Airworthiness Directive is published by the DGAC on behalf of EASA, Airworthiness Authority of the State of Design for the affected product, part or appliance.		<i>Translation of « Consigne de Navigabilité » of same number. In case of difficulty, reference should be made to the French issue.</i>	
	No person may operate an aircraft to which an Airworthiness Directive applies, except in accordance with the requirements of that Airworthiness Directive, unless otherwise agreed with the Authority of the State of Registry.			
Corresponding foreign Airworthiness Directive(s): Not applicable		Airworthiness Directive(s) replaced: None		
Person in charge of airworthiness: AIRBUS SAS		Type(s): A340-200/-300 aircraft		
Type certificate(s) No. 183 TCDS No 183				
ATA chapter: 25	Subject: Equipment/Furnishings - Inspection of cockpit instrument panel			

1. EFFECTIVITY:

AIRBUS aircraft A340-200 and A340-300 series, all certified models, all serial numbers.

2. REASONS:

One A330 operator has reported damage of a bracket PN F2511012920000, which is one of the 8 parts used to attach the cockpit instrument panel to the aircraft structure.

This bracket has been found cracked on two aircraft and, in one case, both vertical flanges of this bracket were found completely broken.

Investigations have revealed that the damage is a bending crack caused by the assembly procedure (tightening of the bracket), combined with lateral load introduced by differential pressure and inertial effects.

This hidden failure, breaking of this bracket, combined with failure of horizontal beam, can lead to collapse the left part of the cockpit panel which could result in the worst case in a reduced controllability of the aircraft.

In order to prevent the risk of having the bracket fully broken, and further damage to the surrounding structure, this Airworthiness Directive (AD) requires a mandatory repetitive detailed visual inspection of the affected bracket.

3. MANDATORY ACTIONS AND COMPLIANCE TIMES:

The following measures are rendered mandatory from the effective date (ED) of this AD :

- 3.1. Before accumulation of 9 700 flight cycles (FC) from the first flight of the aircraft or within 2 700 FC from the ED of this AD, whichever occurs later, without exceeding 12 400 FC from the first flight of the aircraft, perform a detailed visual inspection of the LH bracket PN 2511012920000 without removal of fasteners in accordance with instructions given in AIRBUS Service Bulletin (SB) A340-25-4230.



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- 3.2. If the two flanges of the bracket are fully broken, contact AIRBUS before next flight.
- 3.3. If any crack is found during this inspection, replace the bracket PN F2511012920000 by bracket PN F2511012920095 in accordance with instructions given in AIRBUS SB A340-25-4230 and repeat the inspection of new bracket installed at intervals not exceeding 9 700 FC.
- 3.4. If no crack has been detected, repeat the inspection mentioned in § 3.1. at intervals not exceeding 7 000 FC.
- 3.5. Report any cracked or broken bracket occurrence to AIRBUS.

4. **REFERENCE PUBLICATION:**

AIRBUS Service Bulletin A340-25-4230
(Any further approved revision of this SB is acceptable).

5. **EFFECTIVE DATE:**

August 28, 2004.

6. **REMARK:**

For questions concerning the technical contents of this AD's requirements, contact:
AIRBUS SAS - Bureau de Navigabilité - EAL - Fax : 33 5 61 93 45 80.

7. **APPROVAL:**

This AD is approved under EASA reference No 2004-8596 dated August 10, 2004.

SUPERSEDED