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| EASA | EMERGENCY AIRWORTHINESS DIRECTIVE |
|  | <p>EAD No: 2006-0347-E</p> <p>Date: 15 November 2006</p> |
| 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. | |
| Type Approval Holder's Name : APEX AIRCRAFT | Type/Model designation(s): DR 400 series |
| TC/TCDS Number: DGAC France N° 45/121 | |
| Foreign AD: Not applicable | |
| Supersedure: Not applicable | |
| ATA 57 | Wings – Lower Surface Fabric Covering – Inspection |
| Manufacturers: | Centre Est Aéronautique, Avions Pierre Robin, Constructions Aéronautiques de Bourgogne, APEX Industries |
| Applicability: | All DR 400 series aircraft, all models except the DR 400/500, all serial numbers up to 2451 inclusive (except s/n 2447), with a wing lower surface repair (patch) that has been implemented as a result of inspections required by DGAC AD 1999-460 R1, 2000-224 R3, 2001-194 (superseded by AD 2001-570) or 2001-570 (superseded by 2003-348); or as required by AD 2003-348; except aircraft whose wing lower fabric was entirely replaced as an alternate to the patch repair. |
| Reason: | <p>This Emergency AD results from two reports describing the tearing of the wing lower surface covering fabric. The tearing is supposed to have started at the patch leading edge installed during implementation of DGAC AD 2003-348. In both cases, the aircraft landed safely.</p> <p>To prevent recurrence, this directive requires repetitive inspections of the wing lower surface patched fabric implemented during application of DGAC AD 2003-348 (DR400 Main spar reinforcement) and/or ADs 1999-460 R1, 2000-224 R3, 2001-194, 2001-570, as applicable.</p> <p>This is considered to be an interim action.</p> |
| Effective Date: | 17 November 2006 |

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| Compliance: | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <u>Before next flight after the effective date of this directive:</u> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1.1 Perform a visual and tactile inspection to check the bonding of the covering strips all over the patch perimeter. Check for bubbles, disbonded zones & possible localized fraying even very small one. 1.2 If an anomaly is noticed or in case of any doubt, ground the airplane and send a detailed report to Apex Aircraft Airworthiness Office (refer to § Remarks) and to the maintenance workshop which performed application of AD 2003-348 and/or AD 1999-460, 2000-224, 2001-194 and 2001-570 (including revisions thereof). 2. Thereafter, <u>at intervals not to exceed 55 flight hours</u>, repeat the inspection of § 1.1 of this AD. 3. For aircraft on which application of AD 2003-348 is in progress, the implementation of the wing lower surface patch must be stopped until either : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Approval of new instructions which will cancel or modify relevant paragraphs of APEX Technical Instruction N°1001047 "Preventive consolidation of DR400 spars" or <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A complete fabric covering of left and right wing lower surface which terminates the AD requirements. 4. One VFR flight with only the pilot in command is allowed to ferry the aircraft to a shop capable of completing the wing lower surface inspection. <p>Note: The ferry pilot must be aware of the unsafe condition related in this AD and be ready to react appropriately and to cope with a sudden tearing of the wing lower surface fabric.</p> |
| Ref. Publications: | None |
| Remarks: | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. If requested and appropriately substantiated the responsible EASA manager for the related product has the authority to accept Alternative Methods of Compliance (AMOCs) for this AD. 2. The safety assessment has requested not to implement the full consultation process and an immediate publication and notification. 3. Enquiries regarding this PAD should be addressed AD Focal Point, Certification Directorate, EASA. E-mail: ads@easa.europa.eu 4. For any questions concerning the technical content of the requirements in this AD, please contact APEX AIRCRAFT, Bureau de Navigabilité, 1 route de Troyes, 21121 Darois France, Tel : + 33 380 35 65 10; Fax : + 33 38035 6515; E-mail airworthiness@apex-aircraft.com . |