

EASA	AIRWORTHINESS DIRECTIVE
	<p>AD No.: 2012-0172</p> <p>Date: 03 September 2012</p> <p>Note: This Airworthiness Directive (AD) is issued by EASA, acting in accordance with Regulation (EC) No 216/2008 on behalf of the European Community, its Member States and of the European third countries that participate in the activities of EASA under Article 66 of that Regulation.</p>
<p>This AD is issued in accordance with EC 1702/2003, Part 21A.3B. In accordance with EC 2042/2003 Annex I, Part M.A.301, the continuing airworthiness of an aircraft shall be ensured by accomplishing any applicable ADs. Consequently, no person may operate an aircraft to which an AD applies, except in accordance with the requirements of that AD, unless otherwise specified by the Agency [EC 2042/2003 Annex I, Part M.A.303] or agreed with the Authority of the State of Registry [EC 216/2008, Article 14(4) exemption].</p>	
<p>Design Approval Holder's Name :</p> <p>AIRBUS</p>	<p>Type/Model designation(s) :</p> <p>A340-600 aeroplanes</p>
TCDS Number:	EASA.A.015
Foreign AD:	Not applicable
Supersedure:	This AD supersedes EASA AD 2011-0017 dated 03 February 2011.
ATA 25	Equipment/Furnishings – Evacuation Systems– Off-Wing Ramp-Slide – Inspection / Modification
Manufacturer(s):	Airbus (formerly Airbus Industrie)
Applicability:	Airbus A340-642 and A340-643 aeroplanes, all manufacturer serial numbers.
Reason:	<p>An A340-600 operator reported an in-flight loss of the blow-out panel and the slide unit from an off-wing ramp-slide.</p> <p>In flight, the air contained in the inflatable escape slide assembly can increase in volume due to air pressure changes. Consequently, the pack could expand and apply loads on the packboard soft covers and the blow-out panel attachment hardware. To prevent such pack growth, the design includes a vent valve which, when activated, balances the pressure inside the inflatable assembly with the ambient air pressure.</p> <p>Analysis of the reported occurrence indicates that non-activation of the vent valve, followed by soft cover opening, likely caused the packboard blow-out panel to separate from the slide enclosure.</p> <p>This condition, if not detected and corrected, could result in further incidents of in-flight loss of the off-wing ramp slide.</p> <p>To address this potential unsafe condition, EASA issued AD 2011-0017 to require a one-time inspection of the soft cover condition and check of the vent valve function on each off-wing ramp slide, and accomplishment of the applicable corrective actions.</p> <p>Since that AD was issued, Airbus developed a modification, to be embodied in service through accomplishment of Airbus Service Bulletin (SB) A340-25-5199. In addition, further analyses revealed that a repetitive inspection of the vent</p>

	<p>valve is necessary, until embodiment of this modification.</p> <p>For the reasons described above, this AD, which supersedes EASA AD 2011-0017, requires repetitive inspections of the soft cover condition and check of the vent valve function on each off-wing ramp slide, and modification of the aspirator of the off-wing ramp slide, which constitutes terminating action for the repetitive inspections.</p>
Effective Date:	17 September 2012
Required Action(s) and Compliance Time(s):	<p>Required as indicated, unless accomplished previously:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) Within 6 months after the effective date of this AD, and thereafter, at intervals not to exceed 6 months, inspect the soft cover closure and vent valve activation on each off-wing ramp slide in accordance with the instructions of Airbus SB A340-25-5204. (2) If, during any inspection as required by paragraph (1) of this AD, any discrepancy is identified, before next flight, replace the affected off-wing ramp slide with a serviceable part in accordance with the instructions of Airbus SB A340-25-5204. (3) If the serviceable part, installed as required by paragraph (2) of this AD, has not been modified as specified in paragraph (4) of this AD, upon installation of the part, accomplish an inspection in accordance with the instructions of Airbus SB A340-25-5204. Replacement of an off-wing ramp slide as required by paragraph (2) of this AD does not constitute terminating action for the repetitive inspections required by paragraph (1) of this AD, unless the part is modified as required by paragraph (4) of this AD. (4) Within 36 months after the effective date of this AD, modify all off-wing ramp slides installed on the aeroplane in accordance with the instructions of Airbus SB A340-25-5199. (5) Modification of an off-wing ramp slide as required by paragraph (4) of this AD constitutes terminating action for the repetitive inspections required by paragraph (1) of this AD for that off-wing ramp slide. (6) From 36 months after the effective date of this AD, do not install any off-wing ramp slide on an aeroplane, unless the slide has been modified as required by paragraph (4) of this AD.
Ref. Publications :	<p>Airbus SB A340-25-5204 at Original issue dated 19 March 2012.</p> <p>Airbus SB A340-25-5199 at Original issue dated 17 February 2012.</p> <p>The use of later approved revisions of these documents is acceptable for compliance with the requirements of this AD.</p>
Remarks :	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. If requested and appropriately substantiated, EASA can approve Alternative Methods of Compliance for this AD. 2. This AD was posted on 31 July 2012 as PAD 12-097 for consultation until 28 August 2012. No comments were received during the consultation period. 3. Enquiries regarding this AD should be referred to the Safety Information Section, Executive Directorate, EASA. E-mail ADs@easa.europa.eu. 4. For any question concerning the technical content of the requirements in this AD, please contact: AIRBUS – Airworthiness Office – EIAL; E-mail: airworthiness.A330-A340@airbus.com.