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| EASA | AIRWORTHINESS DIRECTIVE |
|  | <p>AD No.: 2012-0199</p> <p>Date: 26 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> |
| This AD is issued in accordance with EC 748/2012, Part 21.A.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]. | |
| Design Approval Holder's Name: AIRBUS | Type/Model designation(s): A340-500/-600 aeroplanes |
| TCDS Number: | EASA.A.015 |
| Foreign AD: | Not applicable |
| Supersedure: | None |
| ATA 53 | Fuselage – Drain Holes in Frames (FR) 73A & FR75A at Stringer 11 – Inspection / Repair |
| Manufacturer(s): | Airbus |
| Applicability: | Airbus A340-541, A340-542 and A340-642 aeroplanes, manufacturer serial numbers 0804, 0812, 0829, 0837, 0846, 0848, 0870, 0886, 0894, 0897, 0902, 0910, 0912, 0917, 0924, 0929, 0933, 0953, 0960, 0972, 0981, 0987, 0993, 1005, 1017, 1030, 1040 and 1079 inclusive. |
| Reason: | <p>It was detected that cold expansion of the four drain holes diameter 8,5mm in milled FR73A and FR75A at stringer 11 Left Hand (LH) and Right Hand (RH) side had not been performed in production on some aeroplanes. Airbus identified a list of some aeroplanes that are potentially affected.</p> <p>This condition, if not detected and corrected, could lead to reduced fatigue life with higher probability of crack occurrence which could affect the frame integrity and consequently the structural integrity of these aeroplanes.</p> <p>To address this condition, Airbus issued Service Bulletin (SB) A340-53-5062 for aeroplanes in service.</p> <p>Following issuance of related EASA PAD 12-104, the risk assessment has been reconsidered, and the 6 years maximum compliance time for accomplishing the roto-test inspection has been extended to 6 years and 2 months: 74 months. In addition, it has been identified that some serial numbers mentioned in the Applicability section of this AD are A340-541 aeroplanes.</p> <p>For the reasons described above, this AD requires accomplishment of a roto-test inspection of these 4 drain holes and, depending on findings, accomplishment of cold expansion of the 4 drain holes or a repair.</p> |

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| Effective Date: | 10 October 2012 |
| Required Action(s) and Compliance Time(s): | <p>Required as indicated, unless accomplished previously:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) Before exceeding 41 000 Flight Hours or 5 600 Flight Cycles, whichever occurs first, since aeroplane first flight but no later than 74 months from the aeroplane first flight, accomplish a roto-test inspection of the 4 milled drain holes in FR73A and FR75A at stringer11 LH / RH in accordance with the instructions of Airbus SB A340-53-5062. (2) If during the inspection required by paragraph (1) of this AD, no cracks are detected, before next flight, accomplish the cold expansion of the 4 drain holes in accordance with the instructions of Airbus SB A340-53-5062. (3) If during the inspection required by paragraph (1) of this AD, cracks are detected, before next flight, contact Airbus to get further approved instructions and apply these instructions accordingly. |
| Ref. Publications: | <p>Airbus SB A340-53-5062 original issue dated 28 February 2012.</p> <p>The use of later approved revisions of this document 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 07 August 2012 as PAD 12-104 for consultation until 04 September 2012. The Comment Response Document can be found at http://ad.easa.europa.eu/. 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. |