As with all Federal promotion programs, reports and forms are periodically reviewed to reduce information requirements and duplication by industry and public sector agencies. Finally, USDA has not identified any relevant Federal rules that duplicate, overlap, or conflict with this rule.

AMS is committed to complying with the E-Government Act, to promote the use of the Internet and other information technologies to provide increased opportunities for citizen access to Government information and services, and for other purposes.

Regarding outreach efforts, the Board met on July 17, 2015, and unanimously recommended these changes to the Order. All of the Board’s meetings, including meetings held via teleconference, are open to the public and interested persons are invited to participate and express their views.

A proposed rule concerning this action was published in the Federal Register on March 1, 2016 (81 FR 10530). The proposal was made available through the Internet by USDA and the Office of the Federal Register. A 15-day comment period ending March 16, 2016, was provided to allow interested persons to submit comments. No comments were received.

After consideration of all relevant matters presented, including the information and recommendation submitted by the Board and other available information, it is hereby found that this rule, as hereinafter set forth, is consistent with and will effectuate the purposes of the 1996 Act.

It is further found that good cause exists for not postponing the effective date of this rule until 30 days after publication in the Federal Register (5 U.S.C. 553) because this is the initial collection of assessments.

Additionally, this action was published in the Federal Register (5 U.S.C. 7411–7425; 7 U.S.C. 7401).

■ 2. Section 1214.5 is revised to read as follows:

§ 1214.5 Crop year.

Crop year means the period August 1 through July 31 or such other period approved by the Secretary.

■ 3. Section 1214.8 is revised to read as follows:

§ 1214.8 Fiscal period.

Fiscal period means the period August 1 through July 31 or such other period approved by the Secretary.

■ 4. Subpart C, consisting of §1214.520, is added to read as follows:

Subpart C—Provisions Implementing the Christmas Tree Promotion, Research, and Information Order

§ 1214.520 Late payment and interest charges for past due assessments.

(a) A late payment charge shall be imposed on any producer or importer who fails to make timely remittance to the Board of the total assessments for which such producer or importer is liable. The late payment charge will be imposed on any assessments not received within 30 calendar days of the date they are due. This one-time late payment charge shall be $250 and will be increased to $500 after 90 days of delinquency.

(b) In addition to the late payment charge, 1.5 percent per month interest on the outstanding balance, including any late payment charge and accrued interest, will be added to any accounts for which payment has not been received by the Board within 30 calendar days after the date the assessments are due. Such interest will continue to accrue monthly until the outstanding balance is paid to the Board.

Dated: June 10, 2016.

Eleanor Starmer,
Administrator.
[FR Doc. 2016–14150 Filed 6–14–16; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
Federal Aviation Administration

14 CFR Part 39


RIN 2120–AA64

Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Airplanes

AGENCY: Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), Department of Transportation (DOT).

ACTION: Final rule.

SUMMARY: We are adopting a new airworthiness directive (AD) for all Airbus Model A318 series airplanes; A319 series airplanes; A320–211, –212, –214, –231, –232, and –233 airplanes; and A321 series airplanes. This AD was prompted by an evaluation by the design approval holder (DAH) indicating that certain structural repair manual (SRM) inspection requirements for the fuselage skin repairs are insufficient to detect cracks. This AD requires an inspection to determine whether any fuselage external skin (doubler) repairs have been accomplished, an inspection for cracking of certain repaired external fuselage skin areas in the fuselage, and repair if necessary. We are issuing this AD to detect and correct fatigue cracking of the fuselage skin, which could result in reduced structural integrity of the airplane.

DATES: This AD becomes effective July 20, 2016.

The Director of the Federal Register approved the incorporation by reference of a certain publication listed in this AD as of July 20, 2016.

ADDRESSES: For service information identified in this final rule, contact Airbus, Airworthiness Office—EIAS, 1 Rond Point Maurice Bellonte, 31707 Blagnac Cedex, France; telephone +33 5 61 93 36 96; fax +33 5 61 93 44 51; email account.airworth-eas@airbus.com; Internet http://www.airbus.com. You may view this referenced service information at the FAA, Transport Airplane Directorate, 1601 Lind Avenue SW., Renton, WA. For information on the availability of this material at the FAA, call 425–227–1221. It is also available on the Internet at http://www.regulations.gov by searching for and locating Docket No. FAA–2015–3635.

Examining the AD Docket

You may examine the AD docket on the Internet at http://
we requested. We agree that airplanes with repairs accomplished using the updated SRM will be in compliance with certain sections of this AD, such as the timescale for the inspection, which is a subset of the AD requirements. However, the SRM update will not replace the remaining AD requirements, which must be applicable to all airplanes identified in paragraph (c) of this AD. We have not changed this AD in this regard.

Request To Exclude Inspected Airplanes
Delta Airlines (DAL) stated that since certain repairs and modifications on its airplanes have already had their first inspection prior to the compliance time specified in the NPRM, the NPRM requirements should not apply. DAL also stated that if an operator’s maintenance/inspection program is more stringent than the requirements of paragraph (m) of the proposed AD, the operator should be excluded from the NPRM requirements.

We disagree with DAL’s request. Accomplishment of the first inspection is only part of the actions required by this AD. Paragraph (m) of this AD requires revision of the post-repair inspection threshold(s) in the operator’s maintenance/inspection program. This AD includes the minimum requirements for mitigating the identified unsafe condition. However, under the provisions of paragraph (n)(1) of this AD, we will consider requests for approval of different methods of compliance if sufficient data are submitted to substantiate that the change would provide an acceptable level of safety. We have not changed this AD in this regard.

Request To Revise Compliance Time
DAL requested a compliance time extension from 350 flight cycles to 6 months. DAL stated that depending on...
the fleet utilization, an operator of a large, older fleet could be required to accomplish the compliance rework within a few months, thereby creating a significant impact on its available resources. DAL also stated that it is possible that several airplanes will be grounded because it may not have enough resources to comply with the 350-flight-cycle limit.

We do not agree with DAL’s request. DAL’s rationale for a compliance time extension does not provide an acceptable level of safety. The compliance time of this AD is based on a risk assessment. Some safety issues are more time sensitive than others. We have considered the compliance time established by EASA, and the overall risk to the fleet, including the severity of the identified unsafe condition and the likelihood of the occurrence of the unsafe condition, to determine the compliance time. However, under the provisions of paragraph (n)(1) of this AD, operators may apply for an extension of the compliance time by providing a satisfactory rationale explaining why a compliance time extension provides an acceptable level of safety. We have not changed this final rule in this regard.

Request To Clarify Requirements and Approve Certain Repair Information Sources

DAL requested that we make a distinction that the NPRM requirements apply only to external repair fasteners common to the 1.2-millimeter (mm) skin. DAL also stated that we should approve category B repairs done using the latest revision of the SRM and any repair design approval sheet (RDAS) approved after July 1, 2014. DAL stated that the applicable Airbus SRM repair inspection thresholds have been revised this year to address certain inadequacies.

We do not agree with DAL’s requests. Paragraph (g) of this AD already requires an inspection to determine whether any fuselage doubler repairs have been accomplished on affected fuselage sections with a skin thickness of 1.2 mm. DAL did not substantiate how the corrective actions in any RDAS for category “B” repairs approved after July 1, 2014, and the latest revision of the SRMs would adequately address the unsafe condition. However, the commenter may use the provisions of paragraph (n)(2) of this AD for obtaining corrective actions from a manufacturer. We have not changed this AD in this regard.

Request To Clarify Inspection Timeframes

UAL requested clarification on how the NPRM addresses detection of cracking in the timeframe between the inspection threshold specified in the NPRM and Airbus Alert Operators Transmission A53N007–14, dated July 22, 2014, and the repetitive inspections specified in the SRM. UAL stated that the compliance time has a short threshold if the repair records are inconclusive, which is as early as 350 flight cycles from the effective date of the AD; therefore, the initial inspection could be accomplished much earlier than the crack detection period.

We agree to clarify the inspection timeframes. The 350-flight-cycle compliance time is a second option to the compliance time specified in Airbus Alert Operators Transmission A53N007–14, dated July 22, 2014. The compliance time is based on a risk assessment that takes into consideration the fatigue crack length propagation. We have considered the compliance time established by EASA, and the overall risk to the fleet, including the severity of the identified unsafe condition and the likelihood of the occurrence of the unsafe condition. No change to the AD is necessary in this regard.

Request To Correct Non-Destructive Testing Manual (NTM) Task Numbers


We disagree with DAL’s statement. NTM task numbers 51–10–15–270–801–A–01 and 51–10–16–250–801–A–01 are correctly referenced in Airbus Alert Operators Transmission A53N007–14, dated July 22, 2014, and in the Airbus A53N007–14, dated July 22, 2014. The service information is reasonably available because the interested parties have access to it through their normal course of business or by the means identified in the ADDRESSES section.

Costs of Compliance

We estimate that this AD affects 940 airplanes of U.S. registry. We also estimate that it will take about 2 work-hours per product to comply with the basic requirements of this AD. The average labor rate is $85 per work-hour. Based on these figures, we estimate the cost of this AD on U.S. operators to be $159,800, or $170 per product.

We have received no definitive data that would enable us to provide cost estimates for the on-condition actions specified in this AD.

Authority for This Rulemaking

Title 49 of the United States Code specifies the FAA’s authority to issue rules on aviation safety. Subtitle I, section 106, describes the authority of the FAA Administrator. “Subtitle VII: Aviation Programs,” describes in more detail the scope of the Agency’s authority.

We are issuing this rulemaking under the authority described in “Subtitle VII, Part A, Subpart III, Section 44701: General requirements.” Under that section, Congress charges the FAA with promoting safe flight of civil aircraft in air commerce by prescribing regulations for practices, methods, and procedures the Administrator finds necessary for safety in air commerce. This regulation is within the scope of that authority because it addresses an unsafe condition that is likely to exist or develop on products identified in this rulemaking action.
Regulatory Findings

We determined that this AD will not have federalism implications under Executive Order 13132. This AD will not have a substantial direct effect on the States, on the relationship between the national government and the States, or on the distribution of power and responsibilities among the various levels of government.

For the reasons discussed above, I certify that this AD:
1. Is not a “significant regulatory action” under Executive Order 12866;
2. Is not a “significant rule” under the DOT Regulatory Policies and Procedures (44 FR 11034, February 26, 1979);
3. Will not affect intrastate aviation in Alaska; and
4. Will not have a significant economic impact, positive or negative, on a substantial number of small entities under the criteria of the Regulatory Flexibility Act.

List of Subjects in 14 CFR Part 39
Air transportation, Aircraft, Aviation safety, Incorporation by reference, Safety.

Adoption of the Amendment

Accordingly, under the authority delegated to me by the Administrator, the FAA amends 14 CFR part 39 as follows:

PART 39—AIRWORTHINESS DIRECTIVES

§ 39.13 [Amended]

1. The authority citation for part 39 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 49 U.S.C. 106(g), 40113, 44701.

§ 39.13 [Amended]

2. The FAA amends § 39.13 by adding the following new airworthiness directive (AD):


(a) Effective Date

This AD becomes effective July 20, 2016.

(b) Affected ADs

None.

(c) Applicability

This AD applies to the Airbus airplanes specified in paragraphs (c)(1) through (c)(4) of this AD, certificated in any category, all manufacturer serial numbers.


(d) Subject

Air Transport Association (ATA) of America Code 53, Fuselage.

(e) Reason

This AD was prompted by an evaluation by the design approval holder (DAH) indicating that certain structural repair manual (SRM) inspection requirements for the fuselage skin repairs are insufficient to detect cracks. We are issuing this AD to detect and correct fatigue cracking of the fuselage skin, which could result in reduced structural integrity of the airplane.

(f) Compliance

Comply with this AD within the compliance times specified, unless already done.

(g) Inspection To Determine Repair Areas

At the applicable time specified in paragraph (g)(1) or (g)(2) of this AD: Do an inspection to determine whether any fuselage external skin (doubler) repairs have been accomplished on fuselage sections 11, 12, 13, 14, 16, and 17 with a skin thickness of 1.2 millimeters. A review of airplane maintenance records is acceptable in lieu of this inspection if the identification of applicable repairs can be conclusively determined from that review.

(h) Exceptions to Service Information

(1) For Model A319, A320, and A321 series airplanes: Except as specified in paragraphs (h)(1) and (h)(2) of this AD, at the applicable time specified in paragraphs 4.1.1.b. and 4.1.1.c. of the “Accomplishment Timescale” of Airbus Alert Operators Transmission (AOT) A53N007–14, dated July 22, 2014, or within 350 flight cycles after the effective date of this AD, whichever occurs later.
(2) For Model A318 series airplanes: Except as specified in paragraphs (h)(1) and (h)(2) of this AD, at the Model A319 airplane time specified in paragraphs 4.1.1.b. and 4.1.1.c. of the “Accomplishment Timescale” of Airbus AOT A53N007–14, dated July 22, 2014, or within 350 flight cycles after the effective date of this AD, whichever occurs later.

(i) Inspection for Cracking

If, during the inspection required by paragraph (g) of this AD, it is determined that any fuselage skin (doubler) repair has been accomplished on fuselage sections 11, 12, 13, 14, 16, or 17: At the applicable time specified paragraph (g)(1) or (g)(2) of this AD, do an external ultrasonic inspection for cracking in the cut-out surrounding the fastener area, at and in front (approximately 10–15 millimeters) of the fastener row, after doubler removal and before any new extended doubler installation, using a method approved by the Manager, International Branch, ANM–116, Transport Airplane Directorate, FAA; or the European Aviation Safety Agency (EASA); or Airbus’s EASA Design Organization Approval (DOA).

(j) Optional Inspection for Cracking

As an optional method of compliance to the ultrasonic inspection or LFEI inspection required by paragraph (i) of this AD: Do a high frequency eddy current (HFEI) inspection for cracking in the cut-out surrounding the fastener area, at and in front of Airbus Alert Operators Transmission (AOT) A53N007–14, dated July 22, 2014, after accomplishing the inspections required by paragraph (g) of this AD, do a detailed inspection or HFEI inspection and repeat the inspection thereafter within the applicable compliance times specified in paragraph 4.1.1.

(k) Optional Repetitive Inspections

In lieu of doing the inspection required by paragraph (i) of this AD: Within the applicable compliance time specified in paragraph 4.1.1, “Accomplishment Timescale,” of Airbus AOT A53N007–14, dated July 22, 2014, after accomplishing the inspections required by paragraph (g) of this AD, do a detailed inspection or HFEI inspection and repeat the inspection thereafter within the applicable compliance times specified in paragraph 4.1.1.

(l) Repair

If any crack is found during any inspection required by paragraph (i), (j), or (k) of this AD: Before further flight, repair the cracking, in accordance with the instructions of paragraph 4.2.3. “Findings,” of Airbus AOT A53N007–14, dated July 22, 2014, except where Airbus AOT A53N007–14, dated July 22, 2014, specifies to contact Airbus for a repair design approval sheet or for further instructions, this AD requires repair using a method approved by the Manager, International Branch, ANM–116, Transport Airplane Directorate, FAA; or the EASA; or Airbus’s EASA DOA.

(n) FAA-Approved Maintenance or Inspection Program Revision

Concurrently with the accomplishment of any repair required by paragraph (l) of this AD, revise the post-repair inspection threshold(s) in the applicable FAA-approved maintenance program or inspection program, as applicable, in accordance with the instructions specified in paragraph 4.1.1, “Accomplishment Timescale,” of Airbus AOT A53N007–14, dated July 22, 2014, except for Model A318 series airplanes use the instructions specified for Model A319 series airplanes.
The following provisions also apply to this AD:

(1) Alternative Methods of Compliance (AMOCs): The Manager, International Branch, ANM–116, Transport Airplane Directorate, FAA, has the authority to approve AMOCs for this AD, if requested using the procedures found in 14 CFR 39.19. In accordance with 14 CFR 39.19, send your request to your principal inspector or local Flight Standards District Office, as appropriate. If sending information directly to the International Branch, send it to ATTN: Sanjay Kalhan, Aerospace Engineer, International Branch, ANM–116, Transport Airplane Directorate, FAA, 1601 Lind Avenue SW., Renton, WA 98057–3356; telephone 425–227–1405; fax 425–227–1149. Information may be emailed to: 9–ANM–116–AMOC–REQUESTS@faa.gov. Before using any approved AMOC, notify your appropriate principal inspector, or lacking a principal inspector, the manager of the local flight standards district office/certificate holding district office.

(2) Contacting the Manufacturer: For any requirement in this AD to obtain corrective actions from a manufacturer, the action must be accomplished using a method approved by the Manager, International Branch, ANM–116. Transport Airplane Directorate, FAA; or the EASA; or Airbus’s EASA DOA. If approved by the DOA, the approval must include the DOA–authorized signature.

(o) Related Information

(1) Refer to Mandatory Continuing Airworthiness Information (MCAI) EASA Airworthiness Directive 2015–0036R1, dated March 31, 2015, for related information. This MCAI may be found in the AD docket on the Internet at http://www.regulations.gov by searching for and locating Docket No. FAA–2015–3615.

(p) Material Incorporated by Reference

(1) The Director of the Federal Register approved the incorporation by reference (IBR) of the service information listed in this paragraph under 5 U.S.C. 552(a) and 1 CFR part 51.


(ii) Reserved.

(3) For service information identified in this AD, contact Airbus, Airworthiness Office—EIAS, 1 Rond Point Maurice Bellonte, 31707 Blagnac Cedex, France; telephone +33 5 61 93 36 96; fax +33 5 61 93 44 51; email account.airworth-eas@airbus.com; Internet http://www.airbus.com.

(4) You may view this service information at the FAA, Transport Airplane Directorate, 1601 Lind Avenue SW., Renton, WA. For information on the availability of this material at the FAA, call 425–227–1221.

(5) You may view this service information that is incorporated by reference at the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA). For information on the availability of this material at NARA, call 202–741–6030, or go to: http://www.archives.gov/federal-register/cfr/ibr-locations.html.

For service information identified in this AD, contact GROB Aircraft AG, Product Support, Lettenbachstrasse 9, D–86874 Tussenhausen–Mattsies, Germany; telephone: + 49 (0) 8268–998–105; fax: + 49 (0) 8268–998–200; email: productsupport@grob-aircraft.com; Internet: grob-aircraft.com. You may review copies of the referenced service information at the FAA, Small Airplane Directorate, 901 Locust, Kansas City, Missouri 64106. For information on the availability of this material at the FAA, call (816) 329–4148. It is also available on the Internet at http://www.regulations.gov by searching for locating Docket No. FAA–2016–7057.

Examining the AD Docket

You may examine the AD docket on the Internet at http://www.regulations.gov by searching for and locating Docket No. FAA–2016–7057; or in person at the Docket Management Facility between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays. The AD docket contains this AD, the regulatory evaluation, any comments received, and other information. The street address for the Docket Office (telephone (800) 647–5527) is in the ADDRESSES section. Comments will be available in the AD docket shortly after receipt.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Karl Schletzbaun, Aerospace Engineer, FAA, Small Airplane Directorate, 901 Locust, Room 301, Kansas City, Missouri 64106; telephone: (816) 329–4123; fax: (816) 329–4090; email: karl.schletzbaun@faa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Discussion

The European Aviation Safety Agency (EASA), which is the Technical Agent for the Member States of the European Community, has issued EASA AD No.: 2016–0091, dated May 16, 2016 (referred to after this as “the MCAI”), to correct an unsafe condition for the specified products. The MCAI states:

Cracks were found in the bonded joint of the rear horizontal stabilizer frame of G 115E aeroplanes.

This condition, if not detected and corrected, may lead to crack propagation into primary structural elements, with detrimental effect on the structural integrity of the aerospace. To address this potential unsafe condition, GROB issued Service Bulletin (SB) M381078–200 (hereafter referred to as “the SB” in this AD) to provide instructions for inspections and corrective action.

For the reason described above, this AD requires repetitive inspections of the rear horizontal stabilizer frame and modification of the affected structure.