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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Aviation Administration

14 CFR Part 39

[Docket No. FAA-2018-0906; Product Identifier 2018-NM-122-AD; Amendment 39-19561; AD 2019-03-09]

RIN 2120-AA64

Airworthiness Directives; Airbus SAS 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 SAS Model A310-304, -322, -324, and -325 airplanes. This AD was prompted by an evaluation by the design approval holder (DAH) indicating that certain wing skin stringer joints are subject to widespread fatigue damage (WFD). This AD requires a rototest inspection of the fastener holes in the affected areas and repair if necessary, and modifying the fastener holes. We are issuing this AD to address the unsafe condition on these products.

DATES: This AD is effective March 29, 2019.

The Director of the Federal Register approved the incorporation by reference of a certain publication listed in this AD as of March 29, 2019.

ADDRESSES: For service information identified in this final rule, contact Airbus SAS, Airworthiness Office–EAW, Rond-Point Emile Dewoitine No: 2, 31700 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 service information at the FAA, Transport Standards Branch, 2200 South 216th St., Des Moines, WA. For information on the availability of this material at the FAA, call 206-231-3195. It is also available on the internet at <http://www.regulations.gov> by searching for and locating Docket No. FAA-2018-0906.

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-2018-0906; or in person at Docket Operations between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays. The AD docket contains this final rule, the regulatory evaluation, any comments received, and other information. The address for Docket

Operations (phone: 800-647-5527) is U.S. Department of Transportation, Docket Operations, M-30, West Building Ground Floor, Room W12-140, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE, Washington, DC 20590.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dan Rodina, Aerospace Engineer, International Section, Transport Standards Branch, FAA, 2200 South 216th St., Des Moines, WA 98198; telephone and fax 206-231-3225.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:
Discussion

We issued a notice of proposed rulemaking (NPRM) to amend 14 CFR part 39 by adding an AD that would apply to all Airbus SAS Model A310-304, -322, -324, and -325 airplanes. The NPRM published in the Federal Register on November 5, 2018 (83 FR 55294). The NPRM was prompted by an evaluation by the DAH indicating that certain wing skin stringer joints are subject to WFD. The NPRM proposed to require a rototest inspection of the fastener holes in the affected areas and repair if necessary, and modifying the fastener holes.

We are issuing this AD to address any cracking of the top wing skin stringer joints at rib 19, which could result in reduced structural integrity of the wing.

The European Aviation Safety Agency (EASA), which is the Technical Agent for the Member States of the European Union, has issued EASA AD 2018-0174, dated August 14, 2018 (referred to after this as the Mandatory Continuing Airworthiness Information, or “the MCAI”), to correct an unsafe condition for all Airbus SAS Model A310-304, -322, -324, and -325 airplanes. The MCAI states:

In response to US 14 CFR part 26 concerning Widespread Fatigue Damage (WFD), Airbus assessed all wing structural items of the Airbus A310 design deemed potentially susceptible to WFD. The top [wing] skin stringer joints at rib 19 at level of the first fastener row were highlighted as an area of uniform stress distribution, indicating that cracks may develop in adjacent stringers at the same time, which is known as Multi Element Damage.

This condition, if not corrected, could reduce the structural integrity of the wing.

Prompted by the conclusion of WFD analysis, Airbus issued the SB [Service Bulletin A310-57-2108, dated November 9, 2017] to provide modification instructions. The accomplishment of this modification at the specified time will extend the life of the fastener holes in the affected area in order to reach the Limit of Validity.

For the reasons described above, this [EASA] AD requires a one-time inspection of the [fastener] holes in the affected area, accomplishment of applicable corrective action(s) [contacting the manufacturer], depending on findings, and modification.

You may examine the MCAI in the AD docket on the internet at <http://www.regulations.gov> by searching for and locating Docket No. FAA-2018-0906.

Comments

We gave the public the opportunity to participate in developing this final rule. We received no comments on the NPRM or on the determination of the cost to the public.

Conclusion

We reviewed the relevant data and determined that air safety and the public interest require adopting this final rule as proposed, except for minor editorial changes. We have determined that these minor changes:

- Are consistent with the intent that was proposed in the NPRM for addressing the unsafe condition; and
- Do not add any additional burden upon the public than was already proposed in the NPRM.

Related Service Information Under 1 CFR Part 51

Airbus has issued Service Bulletin A310-57-2108, dated November 9, 2017. This service information describes procedures for accomplishing a rototest inspection of the fastener holes in the affected areas and repair if necessary, and modifying the fastener holes.

This 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 14 airplanes of U.S. registry. We estimate the following costs to comply with this AD:

Estimated Costs for Required Actions

Labor cost	Parts cost	Cost per product	Cost on U.S. operators
43 work-hours × \$85 per hour = \$3,655	\$0	\$3,655	\$51,170

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.

This AD is issued in accordance with authority delegated by the Executive Director, Aircraft Certification Service, as authorized by FAA Order 8000.51C. In accordance with that order, issuance of ADs is normally a function of the Compliance and Airworthiness Division, but during this transition period, the Executive Director has delegated the authority to issue ADs applicable to transport category airplanes and associated appliances to the Director of the System Oversight Division.

Regulatory Findings

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

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):



2019-03-09 Airbus SAS: Amendment 39-19561; Docket No. FAA-2018-0906; Product Identifier 2018-NM-122-AD.

(a) Effective Date

This AD is effective March 29, 2019.

(b) Affected ADs

None.

(c) Applicability

This AD applies to all Airbus SAS Model A310-304, -322, -324, and -325 airplanes, certificated in any category.

(d) Subject

Air Transport Association (ATA) of America Code 57, Wings.

(e) Reason

This AD was prompted by an evaluation by the design approval holder (DAH) indicating that top wing skin stringer joints at rib 19 are subject to widespread fatigue damage (WFD). We are issuing this AD to address any cracking of the top wing skin stringer joints at rib 19, which could result in reduced structural integrity of the wing.

(f) Compliance

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

(g) Definitions

(1) The affected areas are defined as the top wing skin stringers, 9 to 15, at the stringer joints, outboard of rib 19, on both wings.

(2) The average flight time (AFT) is defined as flight hours (FH) divided by flight cycles (FC) accumulated by an individual airplane since the airplane's first flight, specified in hours and hundredths of an hour. Refer to the Airbus A310 Maintenance Review Board Report Section D2 for guidance on determining the AFT.

(h) Inspection

Within the applicable compliance times specified in figure 1 to paragraph (h) of this AD, accomplish a rototest inspection of the fastener holes in the affected areas in accordance with the Accomplishment Instructions of Airbus Service Bulletin A310-57-2108, dated November 9, 2017.

Figure 1 to paragraph (h) of this AD – Compliance times for rototest inspection

AFT	Compliance Time (FC or FH, whichever occurs first since the airplane's first flight)
Special (long) Range: AFT > 4.0 FH/FC	34,500 FC or 172,600 FH
Normal (short) Range: AFT ≤ 4.0 FH/FC	42,100 FC or 117,800 FH

(i) Corrective Actions

If, during the inspection required by paragraph (h) of this AD, any discrepancy (i.e., cracking or discrepant hole diameter) or existing repair is detected, before further flight, obtain corrective actions approved by the Manager, International Section, Transport Standards Branch, FAA; or the European Aviation Safety Agency (EASA); or Airbus SAS's EASA Design Organization Approval (DOA); and accomplish the corrective actions within the compliance time specified therein. If approved by the DOA, the approval must include the DOA-authorized signature.

(j) Modification

If, during the inspection required by paragraph (h) of this AD, no existing repair or discrepancy is detected, before further flight, modify the fastener holes in accordance with the Accomplishment Instructions of Airbus Service Bulletin A310-57-2108, dated November 9, 2017.

(k) Other FAA AD Provisions

The following provisions also apply to this AD:

- (1) Alternative Methods of Compliance (AMOCs): The Manager, International Section, Transport Standards Branch, 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 Section, send it to the attention of the person identified in paragraph (1)(2) of this AD. 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 Section, Transport Standards Branch, FAA; or the EASA; or Airbus SAS's EASA DOA. If approved by the DOA, the approval must include the DOA-authorized signature.
- (3) Required for Compliance (RC): If any service information contains procedures or tests that are identified as RC, those procedures and tests must be done to comply with this AD; any procedures or tests that are not identified as RC are recommended. Those procedures and tests that are not identified as RC may be deviated from using accepted methods in accordance with the operator's maintenance or inspection program without obtaining approval of an AMOC, provided the procedures and tests identified as RC can be done and the airplane can be put back in an airworthy

condition. Any substitutions or changes to procedures or tests identified as RC require approval of an AMOC.

(l) Related Information

(1) Refer to Mandatory Continuing Airworthiness Information (MCAI) EASA AD 2018-0174, dated August 14, 2018, 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-2018-0906.

(2) For more information about this AD, contact Dan Rodina, Aerospace Engineer, International Section, Transport Standards Branch, FAA, 2200 South 216th St., Des Moines, WA 98198; telephone and fax 206-231-3225.

(3) Service information identified in this AD that is not incorporated by reference is available at the addresses specified in paragraphs (m)(3) and (m)(4) of this AD.

(m) 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.

(2) You must use this service information as applicable to do the actions required by this AD, unless this AD specifies otherwise.

(i) Airbus Service Bulletin A310-57-2108, dated November 9, 2017.

(ii) [Reserved]

(3) For service information identified in this AD, contact Airbus SAS, Airworthiness Office—EAW, Rond-Point Emile Dewoitine No: 2, 31700 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 Standards Branch, 2200 South 216th St., Des Moines, WA. For information on the availability of this material at the FAA, call 206-231-3195.

(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>.

Issued in Des Moines, Washington, on February 7, 2019.

Michael Kaszycki,
Acting Director, System Oversight Division,
Aircraft Certification Service.