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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Aviation Administration

14 CFR Part 39

[Docket No. FAA-2023-2240; Project Identifier MCAI-2023-00936-T; Amendment 39-22717; AD 2024-06-12]

RIN 2120-AA64

Airworthiness Directives; Airbus SAS Airplanes

AGENCY:

Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), DOT.

ACTION:

Final rule.

SUMMARY:

The FAA is superseding Airworthiness Directive (AD) 2021-24-20, which applied to all Airbus SAS Model A350-941 and -1041 airplanes, and AD 2023-03-05, which applied to certain Airbus SAS Model A350-941 and -1041 airplanes. AD 2021-24-20 required repetitive water drainage and plug cleaning of the left- and right-hand slat geared rotary actuators (SGRAs) having a certain part number installed on slat 5 track 12 with certain functional item numbers. AD 2023-03-05 required revising the existing maintenance or inspection program, as applicable, to incorporate new or more restrictive airworthiness limitations. This AD was prompted by a determination that new or more restrictive airworthiness limitations are necessary. This AD continues to require certain actions in AD 2021-24-20 and AD 2023-03-05 and requires revising the existing maintenance or inspection program, as applicable, to incorporate new or more restrictive airworthiness limitations, as specified in a European Union Aviation Safety Agency (EASA) AD, which is incorporated by reference. The FAA is issuing this AD to address the unsafe condition on these products.

DATES:

This AD is effective June 5, 2024.

The Director of the Federal Register approved the incorporation by reference of a certain publication listed in this AD as of June 5, 2024.

The Director of the Federal Register approved the incorporation by reference of a certain other publication listed in this AD as of March 23, 2023 ([88 FR 10011](#), February 16, 2023).

The Director of the Federal Register approved the incorporation by reference of a certain other publication listed in this AD as of January 27, 2022 ([86 FR 72838](#), December 23, 2021).

ADDRESSES:

AD Docket: You may examine the AD docket at *regulations.gov* under Docket No. FAA-2023-2240; 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 mandatory continuing airworthiness information (MCAI), any comments received, and other information. The address for Docket Operations 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.

Material Incorporated by Reference:

- For material incorporated by reference in this AD, contact EASA, Konrad-Adenauer-Ufer 3, 50668 Cologne, Germany; telephone +49 221 8999 000; email ADs@easa.europa.eu; website easa.europa.eu. You may find this material on the EASA website at ad.easa.europa.eu.
- You may view this material at the FAA, Airworthiness Products Section, Operational Safety 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 in the AD docket at *regulations.gov* under Docket No. FAA-2023-2240.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Dat Le, Aviation Safety Engineer, FAA, 1600 Stewart Avenue, Suite 410, Westbury, NY 11590; telephone 516-228-7300; email 9-avs-nyaco-cos@faa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

The FAA issued a notice of proposed rulemaking (NPRM) to amend [14 CFR part 39](#) to supersede AD 2021-24-20, Amendment 39-21841 ([86 FR 72838](#), December 23, 2021) (AD 2021-24-20) and AD 2023-03-05, Amendment 39-22330 ([88 FR 10011](#), February 16, 2023) (AD 2023-03-05). AD 2021-24-20 applied to all Airbus SAS Model A350-941 and -1041 airplanes. AD 2021-24-20 required repetitive water drainage and plug cleaning of the left- and right-hand SGRAs having a certain part number installed on slat 5 track 12 with certain functional item numbers. The FAA issued AD 2021-24-20 to address SGRA jams, which could result in reduced control of the airplane.

AD 2023-03-05 applied to certain Airbus SAS Model A350-941 and -1041 airplanes. AD 2023-03-05 required revising the existing maintenance or inspection program, as applicable, to incorporate

additional new or more restrictive airworthiness limitations. The FAA issued AD 2023-03-05 to address an unsafe condition.

The NPRM published in the **Federal Register** on December 15, 2023 ([88 FR 86840](#)). The NPRM was prompted by AD 2023-0157, dated July 31, 2023, issued by EASA, which is the Technical Agent for the Member States of the European Union (EASA AD 2023-0157) (also referred to as the MCAI). The MCAI states that new or more restrictive airworthiness limitations have been developed.

In the NPRM, the FAA proposed to continue to require certain actions in AD 2021-24-20 and AD 2023-03-05 and proposed to require revising the existing maintenance or inspection program, as applicable, to incorporate new or more restrictive airworthiness limitations, as specified in EASA AD 2023-0157. The FAA is issuing this AD to address the unsafe condition on these products.

You may examine the MCAI in the AD docket at *regulations.gov* under Docket No. FAA-2023-2240.

Discussion of Final Airworthiness Directive

Comments

The FAA received a comment from Air Line Pilots Association, International, who supported the NPRM without change.

The FAA received additional comments from Delta Air Lines (DAL). The following presents the comments received on the NPRM and the FAA's response.

Request for Clarification of Applicability to Newly Delivered Airplanes

DAL requested whether airplanes with an original airworthiness certificate or original export certificate of airworthiness issued after June 1, 2023, must continue to comply with AD 2019-20-01, Amendment 39-19754 ([84 FR 55495](#), October 17, 2019) (AD 2019-20-01), and AD 2021-24-20, Amendment 39-21841 ([86 FR 72838](#), December 23, 2021) (AD 2021-24-20), since the new AD does not apply to those airplanes.

The FAA agrees to clarify. For airworthiness limitation ADs, applicability is limited to airplanes that are certificated without the new airworthiness limitation document and thus do not apply to airplanes in production. Hence the AD identifies airplanes that were certificated on or before the publication date of the new airworthiness limitation document (for most manufacturers). In this case, the new airworthiness limitation document was published on June 1, 2023. In the preamble of the NPRM, the FAA explained “Airplanes with an original airworthiness certificate or original export certificate of airworthiness issued after June 1, 2023, must comply with the airworthiness limitations specified as part of the approved type design and referenced on the type certificate data sheet; this proposed AD therefore does not include those airplanes in the applicability.” Thus, those airplanes are no longer required to comply with AD 2019-20-01 or AD 2021-24-20 after the effective date of this AD because those operators are complying with the new airworthiness limitation document as part of the approved type design, which addresses the unsafe condition identified in AD 2019-20-01 and AD 2021-24-20. The FAA has not changed this AD in this regard.

Conclusion

This product has been approved by the aviation authority of another country and is approved for operation in the United States. Pursuant to the FAA's bilateral agreement with this State of Design Authority, it has notified the FAA of the unsafe condition described in the MCAI referenced above. The FAA reviewed the relevant data, considered the comments received, and determined that air safety requires adopting this AD as proposed. Accordingly, the FAA is issuing this AD to address the unsafe condition on this product. Except for minor editorial changes, this AD is adopted as proposed in the NPRM. None of the changes will increase the economic burden on any operator.

Related Service Information Under [1 CFR Part 51](#)

The FAA requires EASA AD 2023-0157. This service information specifies new or more restrictive airworthiness limitations for airplane structures and safe life limits.

This AD also requires EASA AD 2022-0127, dated June 28, 2022, which the Director of the Federal Register approved for incorporation by reference as of March 23, 2023 ([88 FR 10011](#), February 16, 2023).

This AD also requires EASA AD 2021-0130R1, dated June 10, 2021, which the Director of the Federal Register approved for incorporation by reference as of January 27, 2022 ([86 FR 72838](#), December 23, 2021).

This material 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

The FAA estimates that this AD affects 30 airplanes of U.S. registry. The FAA estimates the following costs to comply with this AD:

Estimated Costs for Retained Actions From AD 2021-24-20

Action	Labor cost	Parts cost	Cost per product	Cost on U.S. operators
Retained actions from AD 2021-24-20	4 work-hours × \$85 per hour = \$340	\$0	\$340	\$10,200

The FAA estimates the total cost per operator for the retained actions from AD 2023-03-05 to be \$7,650 (90 work-hours × \$85 per work-hour).

The FAA has determined that revising the existing maintenance or inspection program takes an average of 90 work-hours per operator, although the agency recognizes that this number may vary from operator to operator. Since operators incorporate maintenance or inspection program changes for their affected fleet(s), the FAA has determined that a per-operator estimate is more accurate than a per-airplane estimate.

The FAA estimates the total cost per operator for the new actions to be \$7,650 (90 work-hours × \$85

per work-hour).

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.

The FAA is 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

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) Will not affect intrastate aviation in Alaska, and
- (3) 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

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](#).

2. The FAA amends § 39.13 by:

a. Removing Airworthiness Directive (AD) 2021-24-20, Amendment 39-21841 ([86 FR 72838](#), December 23, 2021); and AD 2023-03-05, Amendment 39-22330 ([88 FR 10011](#), February 16, 2023); and

b. Adding the following new AD:

2024-06-12 Airbus SAS: Amendment 39-22717; Docket No. FAA-2023-2240; Project Identifier MCAI-2023-00936-T.

(a) Effective Date

This airworthiness directive (AD) is effective June 5, 2024.

(b) Affected ADs

(1) This AD replaces AD 2021-24-20, Amendment 39-21841 ([86 FR 72838](#), December 23, 2021) (AD 2021-24-20); and AD 2023-03-05, Amendment 39-22330 ([88 FR 10011](#), February 16, 2023) (AD 2023-03-05).

(2) This AD affects AD 2019-20-01, Amendment 39-19754 ([84 FR 55495](#), October 17, 2019) (AD 2019-20-01).

(c) Applicability

This AD applies to Airbus SAS Model A350-941 and -1041 airplanes, certificated in any category, with an original airworthiness certificate or original export certificate of airworthiness issued on or before June 1, 2023.

(d) Subject

Air Transport Association (ATA) of America Code 05, Time Limits/Maintenance Checks.

(e) Unsafe Condition

This AD was prompted by a determination that new or more restrictive airworthiness limitations are necessary. The FAA is issuing this AD to address hazardous or catastrophic airplane system failures.

(f) Compliance

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

(g) Retained Requirements of AD 2021-24-20, With No Changes

This paragraph restates the requirements of paragraph (g) of AD 2021-24-20, with no changes. Except as specified in paragraph (h) of this AD, comply with all required actions and compliance times specified in, and in accordance with, European Union Aviation Safety Agency (EASA) AD 2021-0130R1, dated June 10, 2021 (EASA AD 2021-0130R1). Accomplishing the revision of the existing

maintenance or inspection program required by paragraph (m) of this AD terminates the requirements of this paragraph.

(h) Retained Exceptions to EASA AD 2021-0130R1, With No Changes

This paragraph restates the exceptions specified in paragraph (h) of AD 2021-24-20, with no changes.

(1) Where EASA AD 2021-0130R1 refers to “the effective date of the original issue of this [EASA] AD,” this AD requires using January 27, 2022 (the effective date of AD 2021-24-20).

(2) The “Remarks” section of EASA AD 2021-0130R1 does not apply to this AD.

(i) Retained No Reporting for EASA AD 2021-0130R1, With No Changes

This paragraph restates the no reporting requirement of paragraph (i) of AD 2021-24-20, with no changes. Although the service information referenced in EASA AD 2021-0130R1 specifies to submit certain information to the manufacturer, this AD does not include that requirement.

(j) Retained Revision of the Existing Maintenance or Inspection Program, With No Changes

This paragraph restates the requirements of paragraph (j) of AD 2023-03-05, with no changes. For airplanes with an original airworthiness certificate or original export certificate of airworthiness issued on or before May 2, 2022: Except as specified in paragraph (k) of this AD, comply with all required actions and compliance times specified in, and in accordance with, EASA AD 2022-0127, dated June 28, 2022 (EASA AD 2022-0127). Accomplishing the revision of the existing maintenance or inspection program required by paragraph (m) of this AD terminates the requirements of this paragraph.

(k) Retained Exceptions to EASA AD 2022-0127, With No Changes

This paragraph restates the exceptions specified in paragraph (k) of AD 2023-03-05, with no changes.

(1) The requirements specified in paragraphs (1) and (2) of EASA AD 2022-0127 do not apply to this AD.

(2) Paragraph (3) of EASA AD 2022-0127 specifies to revise “the AMP” within 12 months after its effective date, but this AD requires revising the existing maintenance or inspection program, as applicable, within 90 days after March 23, 2023 (the effective date of AD 2023-03-05).

(3) The initial compliance time for doing the tasks specified in paragraph (3) of EASA AD 2022-0127 is at the applicable “limitations” as incorporated by the requirements of paragraph (3) of EASA AD 2022-0127, or within 90 days after March 23, 2023 (the effective date of AD 2023-03-05), whichever occurs later.

(4) The provisions specified in paragraphs (4) and (5) of EASA AD 2022-0127 do not apply to this AD.

(5) The “Remarks” section of EASA AD 2022-0127 does not apply to this AD.

(l) Retained Restrictions on Alternative Actions and Intervals With a New Exception

This paragraph restates the requirements of paragraph (l) of AD 2022-0127, with a new exception. Except as required by paragraph (m) of this AD, after the existing maintenance or inspection program has been revised as required by paragraph (j) of this AD, no alternative actions (*e.g.*, inspections) and intervals are allowed unless they are approved as specified in the provisions of the “Ref. Publications” section of EASA AD 2022-0127.

(m) New Revision of the Existing Maintenance or Inspection Program

Except as specified in paragraph (n) of this AD: Comply with all required actions and compliance times specified in, and in accordance with, EASA AD 2023-0157, dated July 31, 2023 (EASA AD 2023-0157). Accomplishing the revision of the existing maintenance or inspection program required by this paragraph terminates the requirements of paragraphs (g) and (j) of this AD.

(n) Exceptions to EASA AD 2023-0157

(1) This AD does not adopt the requirements specified in paragraphs (1) and (2) of EASA AD 2023-0157.

(2) Paragraph (3) of EASA AD 2023-0157 specifies revising “the AMP” within 12 months after its effective date, but this AD requires revising the existing maintenance or inspection program, as applicable, within 90 days after the effective date of this AD.

(3) The initial compliance time for doing the tasks specified in paragraph (3) of EASA 2023-0157 is at the applicable “limitations” and “associated thresholds” as incorporated by the requirements of paragraph (3) of EASA AD 2023-0157, or within 90 days after the effective date of this AD, whichever occurs later.

(4) This AD does not adopt the provisions specified in paragraphs (4) and (5) of EASA AD 2023-0157.

(5) This AD does not adopt the “Remarks” section of EASA AD 2023-0157.

(o) New Provisions for Alternative Actions and Intervals

After the existing maintenance or inspection program has been revised as required by paragraph (m) of this AD, no alternative actions (*e.g.*, inspections) and intervals are allowed unless they are approved as specified in the provisions of the “Ref. Publications” section of EASA AD 2023-0157.

(p) Terminating Action for Certain Tasks Required by AD 2019-20-01

After the maintenance or inspection program has been revised as required by paragraph (j) or (m) of this AD, the repetitive greasing specified in EASA AD 2018-0234R1, dated November 13, 2018, and EASA AD 2018-0234R2, dated September 17, 2019, as required by AD 2019-20-01, is terminated for thrust reverser actuators, having part number (P/N) 351D9908-689, P/N 351D9908-691 or P/N 351D9908-693.

(q) Additional AD Provisions

The following provisions also apply to this AD:

(1) *Alternative Methods of Compliance (AMOCs)*: The Manager, International Validation 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 responsible Flight Standards Office, as appropriate. If sending information directly to the International Validation Branch, send it to the attention of the person identified in paragraph (r) of this AD. Information may be emailed to: 9-AVS-AIR-730-AMOC@faa.gov. Before using any approved AMOC, notify your appropriate principal inspector, or lacking a principal inspector, the manager of the responsible Flight Standards Office.

(2) *Contacting the Manufacturer*: For any requirement in this AD to obtain instructions from a manufacturer, the instructions must be accomplished using a method approved by the Manager, International Validation Branch, FAA; or EASA; or Airbus SAS's EASA Design Organization Approval (DOA). If approved by the DOA, the approval must include the DOA-authorized signature.

(r) Additional Information

For more information about this AD, contact Dat Le, Aviation Safety Engineer, FAA, 1600 Stewart Avenue, Suite 410, Westbury, NY 11590; telephone 516-228-7300; email 9-avs-nyaco-cos@faa.gov.

(s) 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.

(3) The following service information was approved for IBR on June 5, 2024.

(i) European Union Aviation Safety Agency (EASA) AD 2023-0157, dated July 31, 2023.

(ii) [Reserved]

(4) The following service information was approved for IBR on March 23, 2023 ([88 FR 10011](#), February 16, 2023).

(i) EASA AD 2022-0127, dated June 28, 2022.

(ii) [Reserved]

(5) The following service information was approved for IBR on January 27, 2022 ([86 FR 72838](#), December 23, 2021).

(i) EASA AD 2021-0130R1, dated June 10, 2021.

(ii) [Reserved]

(6) For EASA ADs 2021-0130R1, 2022-0127, and 2023-0157, contact EASA, Konrad-Adenauer-Ufer 3, 50668 Cologne, Germany; telephone +49 221 8999 000; email ADs@easa.europa.eu; website easa.europa.eu. You may find these EASA ADs on the EASA website at ad.easa.europa.eu.

(7) You may view this service information at the FAA, Airworthiness Products Section, Operational Safety Branch, 2200 South 216th St., Des Moines, WA. For information on the availability of this material at the FAA, call 206-231-3195.

(8) You may view this material at the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA). For information on the availability of this material at NARA, visit www.archives.gov/federal-register/cfr/ibr-locations or email fr.inspection@nara.gov.

Issued on March 22, 2024.

Victor Wicklund,

Deputy Director, Compliance & Airworthiness Division, Aircraft Certification Service.

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