



[4910-13-P]

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Aviation Administration

14 CFR Part 39

[Docket No. FAA-2018-0390; Product Identifier 2017-NM-130-AD]

RIN 2120-AA64

Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Airplanes

AGENCY: Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), DOT.

ACTION: Notice of proposed rulemaking (NPRM).

SUMMARY: We propose to adopt a new airworthiness directive (AD) for all Airbus Model A300 series airplanes. This proposed AD was prompted by a revision of an airworthiness limitation items (ALI) document. This proposed AD would require revising the maintenance or inspection program, as applicable, to incorporate the specified maintenance requirements and airworthiness limitations. We are proposing this AD to address the unsafe condition on these products.

DATES: We must receive comments on this proposed AD by [INSERT DATE 45 DAYS AFTER DATE OF PUBLICATION IN THE FEDERAL REGISTER].

ADDRESSES: You may send comments, using the procedures found in 14 CFR 11.43 and 11.45, by any of the following methods:

- Federal eRulemaking Portal: Go to <http://www.regulations.gov>. Follow the instructions for submitting comments.
- Fax: 202-493-2251.
- Mail: U.S. Department of Transportation, Docket Operations, M-30, West Building

Ground Floor, Room W12-140, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE., Washington, DC 20590.

- Hand Delivery: Deliver to Mail address above between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays.

For service information identified in this NPRM, 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 service information at the FAA, Transport Standards Branch, 2200 South 216th Street, Des Moines, WA. For information on the availability of this material at the FAA, call 206-231-3195.

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-2018-0390; 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 NPRM, the regulatory evaluation, any comments received, and other information. The street address for the Docket Operations 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: Dan Rodina, Aerospace Engineer, International Section, Transport Standards Branch, FAA, 2200 South 216th Street, Des Moines, WA 98198; telephone and fax 206-231-3225.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Comments Invited

We invite you to send any written relevant data, views, or arguments about this proposal. Send your comments to an address listed under the ADDRESSES section. Include “Docket No. FAA-2018-0390; Product Identifier 2017-NM-130-AD” at the beginning of your comments. We specifically invite comments on the overall regulatory, economic, environmental, and energy aspects of this NPRM. We will consider all comments received by the closing date and may amend this NPRM based on those comments.

We will post all comments we receive, without change, to <http://www.regulations.gov>, including any personal information you provide. We will also post a report summarizing each substantive verbal contact we receive about this NPRM.

Discussion

The European Aviation Safety Agency (EASA), which is the Technical Agent for the Member States of the European Union, has issued EASA Airworthiness Directive 2017-0145, dated August 31, 2017 (referred to after this as the Mandatory Continuing Airworthiness Information, or “the MCAI”), to correct an unsafe condition for all Airbus Model A300 series airplanes. The MCAI states:

Some airworthiness limitations previously defined in A300 ALS Part 1 have been removed from that document and should normally be included in an ALS Part 4. Airbus does not plan to issue an ALS Part 4 for A300 aeroplanes.

Nevertheless, failure to comply with these airworthiness limitations could result in an unsafe condition.

For the reason described above, it has been decided to require the application of these airworthiness limitations through a separate AD.

Previously, EASA issued AD 2013-0210 [which corresponds to FAA AD 2014-16-13, Amendment 39-17937 (79 FR 51083, August 27, 2014) (“AD 2014-16-13”)] to require implementation of airworthiness limitations applicable to main landing gear (MLG) barrel assembly, retraction actuator assembly, linkage assembly and flanged duct, which were previously defined in Revision 00 of A300 ALS Part 1 but removed from Revision 01 of A300 ALS Part 1, adding those limits as an Appendix to the AD.

Since EASA AD 2013-0210 was issued, improvement of safe life component selection resulted, among others, in removal of 15 nose landing gear (NLG) parts from Revision 02 of A300 ALS Part 1.

Consequently, this [EASA] AD retains the requirements of EASA AD 2013-0210, which is superseded, and requires, in addition to the implementation of airworthiness limitations already contained in EASA AD 2013-0210, the implementation of airworthiness limitations applicable to NLG barrel assembly and shock absorber assembly, previously contained in Revision 01 of A300 ALS Part 1, as specified in Appendix 1 of this AD.

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-2018-0390.

Relationship of Proposed AD to AD 2014-16-13

This NPRM would not supersede AD 2014-16-13. Rather, we have determined that a stand-alone AD would be more appropriate to address the changes in the MCAI. This NPRM would require revising the maintenance or inspection program to incorporate the new maintenance requirements and airworthiness limitations. Accomplishment of the proposed actions would then terminate all requirements of AD 2014-16-13.

FAA's Determination and Requirements of this Proposed AD

This product has been approved by the aviation authority of another country, and is approved for operation in the United States. Pursuant to our bilateral agreement with the State of Design Authority, we have been notified of the unsafe condition described in the MCAI and service information referenced above. We are proposing this AD because we evaluated all pertinent information and determined an unsafe condition exists and is likely to exist or develop on other products of the same type designs.

This proposed AD requires revisions to certain operator maintenance documents to include new actions (e.g., inspections). Compliance with these actions is required by 14 CFR 91.403(c). For airplanes that have been previously modified, altered, or repaired in the areas addressed by this proposed AD, the operator may not be able to accomplish the actions described in the revisions. In this situation, to comply with 14 CFR 91.403(c), the operator must request approval for an alternative method of compliance according to paragraph (j)(1) of this proposed AD. The request should include a description of changes to the required inspections that will ensure the continued operational safety of the airplane.

Differences Between this Proposed AD and the MCAI or Service Information

The MCAI specifies that if there are findings from the airworthiness limitations section (ALS) inspection tasks, corrective actions must be accomplished in accordance with Airbus maintenance documentation. However, this proposed AD does not include that requirement. Operators of U.S.-registered airplanes are required by general airworthiness and operational regulations to perform maintenance using methods that are acceptable to the

FAA. We consider those methods to be adequate to address any corrective actions necessitated by the findings of ALS inspections required by this proposed AD.

Costs of Compliance

We estimate that this proposed AD affects 5 airplanes of U.S. registry.

We estimate the following costs to comply with this proposed AD:

We have determined that revising the maintenance or inspection program takes an average of 90 work-hours per operator, although we recognize that this number may vary from operator to operator. In the past, we have estimated that this action takes 1 work-hour per airplane. Since operators incorporate maintenance or inspection program changes for their affected fleet(s), we have determined that a per-operator estimate is more accurate than a per-airplane estimate. Therefore, we estimate the total cost per operator to be \$7,650 (90 work-hours x \$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.

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 proposed 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 to the Director of the System Oversight Division.

Regulatory Findings

We determined that this proposed AD would not have federalism implications under Executive Order 13132. This proposed AD would 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 this proposed regulation:

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.

The Proposed Amendment

Accordingly, under the authority delegated to me by the Administrator, the FAA proposes to amend 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):

Airbus: Docket No. FAA-2018-0390; Product Identifier 2017-NM-130-AD.

(a) Comments Due Date

We must receive comments by [INSERT DATE 45 DAYS AFTER DATE OF PUBLICATION IN THE FEDERAL REGISTER].

(b) Affected ADs

This AD affects AD 2014-16-13, Amendment 39-17937 (79 FR 51083, August 27, 2014) (“AD 2014-16-13”).

(c) Applicability

This AD applies to Airbus Model A300 B2-1A, B2-1C, B2K-3C, B2-203, B4-2C, B4-103, and B4-203 airplanes, certificated in any category.

(d) Subject

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

(e) Reason

This AD was prompted by a revision of an airworthiness limitation items (ALI) document. We are issuing this AD to prevent reduced structural integrity of the airplane and possible loss of controllability of the airplane.

(f) Compliance

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

(g) Revision of Maintenance or Inspection Program

Within 90 days after the effective date of this AD, revise the maintenance or inspection program, as applicable, to incorporate the safe life limits included in figure 1 to paragraph (g) of this AD. The initial compliance time for the replacements is prior to the applicable life limits specified in figure 1 to paragraph (g) of this AD, or within 90 days after the effective date of this AD, whichever occurs later. The term “FH” in figure 1 to paragraph (g) of this AD means total flight hours. The term “LDG” in figure 1 to paragraph (g) of this AD means total airplane landings.

Figure 1 to paragraph (g) of this AD – New Life Limits for the Main Landing Gear (MLG) Barrel Assembly, Retraction Actuator Assembly, Linkage Assembly; Pneumatic Flange Duct; Nose Landing Gear (NLG) Barrel Assembly and Shock Absorber Assembly

Part Name	Part Number	SAFE LIFE LIMITS (*)			Affected Model(s)					
		FH	LDG	Cal	B2-1A B2-1C	B2K-3C B2-20x	B2-320	B4-2C B4-1xx	B4-2xx	C4-203 F4-203
ATA 32-10-00 MAIN LANDING GEAR										
BARREL ASSEMBLY										
Stirrup	C66277-10	N/A	66600	N/A			X	X	X	X
	C66277-12	N/A	76600	N/A			X	X	X	X
	C66277-14	N/A	76600	N/A			X	X	X	X
	D58303-1	N/A	76600	N/A			X	X	X	X
Stirrup pin	C66457	N/A	76600	N/A			X	X	X	X
	D48939	N/A	76600	N/A			X	X	X	X
	D48939-1	N/A	76600	N/A			X	X	X	X
	D58314-1	N/A	76600	N/A			X	X	X	X
Universal joint	C66279	N/A	76600	N/A			X	X	X	X
	C66279-2	N/A	76600	N/A			X	X	X	X
	C66279-6	N/A	76600	N/A			X	X	X	X
	D58313-1	N/A	76600	N/A			X	X	X	X
Plate (Upper end)	C61637-10	N/A	76600	N/A	X	X				
	C61637-11	N/A	76600	N/A	X	X				
	C61637-12	N/A	76600	N/A	X	X				
Plate (Rear head end)	C61638-10	N/A	53300	N/A	X	X				
	C61638-11	N/A	53300	N/A	X	X				
	C61638-20	N/A	76600	N/A	X	X				
Tie rod	C68523-3	N/A	76600	N/A	X	X				
RETRACTION ACTUATOR ASSEMBLY										
(1) When SB A300-32-0123 embodied before SB A300-32-0113.										
(2) When SB A300-32-0123 embodied after SB A300-32-0113.										
Sliding rod	C69028-1	N/A	34000	N/A	X	X				
	C69028-4	N/A	34000	N/A	X	X				
	C69029-1 (1)	N/A	32000	N/A			X	X	X	X
	C69029-2	N/A	32000	N/A			X	X	X	X
	C69029-3	N/A	32000	N/A			X	X	X	X
	C69029-4 (2)	N/A	22000	N/A			X	X	X	X
Piston	C67078	N/A	33000	N/A			X	X	X	X
	C67078-1	N/A	33000	N/A			X	X	X	X
End fitting	C61342-4	N/A	36700	N/A	X	X				
	C66510-4	N/A	32000	N/A			X	X	X	X

LINKAGE ASSEMBLY										
Upper multiple link pin (Multiple link/Upper link)	C61505	N/A	76600	N/A	X	X				
	C61505-1	N/A	76600	N/A	X	X				
	C61505-20	N/A	76600	N/A	X	X				
ATA 36-11-05 PNEUMATIC										
(1) "xx" at the end of the P/N stands for any number between 00 and 99.										
Duct flanged (1)	A21274063000 xx	N/A	24000	N/A	X		X	X		
ATA 32-20-00 NOSE LANDING GEAR										
BARREL ASSEMBLY (FIG.07)										
(1) Limitation applicable to WV01 & WV03 only.										
(2) Part must be replaced by a new one every time it is removed from the barrel.										
(3) The nut must be replaced by a new one every time it is removed from the pin. When the nut is temporarily removed and reinstalled for the purpose of performing maintenance outside a workshop, no replacement is required provided the nut's removal and reinstallation are performed on the same pin and neither the pin nor the nut accumulates time in service during the period between the removal and reinstallation.										
End fitting pin nut	D68062	N/A	(2)	N/A	X	X	X	X	X	X
	MS17825-6	N/A	(2)	N/A	X	X	X	X	X	X
End fitting pin	AN6-17	N/A	(2)	N/A	X	X	X	X	X	X
	D61183	N/A	(2)	N/A	X	X	X	X	X	X
	D68063	N/A	(2)	N/A	X	X	X	X	X	X
	NAS1306-22D	N/A	(2)	N/A	X	X	X	X	X	X
End fitting	C62032	N/A	65700	N/A	X	X	X	X	X	X
	C62032-1	N/A	65700	N/A	X	X	X	X	X	X
	C62032-2	N/A	65700	N/A	X	X	X	X	X	X
	C62032-10	N/A	65700	N/A	X	X	X	X	X	X
	D61184	N/A	65700	N/A	X	X	X	X	X	X
	D61184-1	N/A	65700	N/A	X	X	X	X	X	X
	D68076	N/A	65700	N/A	X	X	X	X	X	X
Rack	D68695	N/A	65700	N/A	X	X	X	X	X	X
	C61453	N/A	65700	N/A	X	X (1)				
	C61453-1	N/A	65700	N/A	X	X	X	X	X	X
	C61453-15	N/A	65700	N/A	X	X	X	X	X	X
	C61453-20	N/A	65700	N/A	X	X	X	X	X	X
	C61453-40	N/A	65700	N/A	X	X	X	X	X	X
	C61453-41	N/A	65700	N/A	X	X	X	X	X	X
C61453-205	N/A	65700	N/A	X	X	X	X	X	X	

Part Name	Part Number	SAFE LIFE LIMITS (*)			Affected Model(s)					
		FH	LDG	Cal	B2-1A B2-1C	B2K-3C B2-20x	B2-320	B4-2C B4-1xx	B4-2xx	C4-203 F4-203
Turning tube	C59050-30	N/A	24000	N/A	X	X	X	X	X	X
	C59050-40	N/A	24000	N/A	X	X	X	X	X	X
	C59050-50	N/A	65700	N/A	X	X	X	X	X	X
	C59050-60	N/A	65700	N/A	X	X	X	X	X	X
	C59050	N/A	24000	N/A	X	X (1)				
	C59050-2	N/A	24000	N/A	X	X (1)	X	X	X	X
	C59050-3	N/A	24000	N/A	X	X (1)				
	C59050-4	N/A	24000	N/A	X	X	X	X	X	X
	C59050-20	N/A	24000	N/A	X	X	X	X	X	X
	C59050-28	N/A	24000	N/A	X	X (1)	X	X	X	X
Torque link pin (Upper & Lower)	C62223-1	N/A	65700	N/A	X	X	X	X	X	X
	C62223-15	N/A	65700	N/A	X	X	X	X	X	X
	C62223-20	N/A	65700	N/A	X	X	X	X	X	X
Torque Links (Upper & Lower)	C59562-2	N/A	65700	N/A	X	X	X	X	X	X
	C59562-3	N/A	65700	N/A			X	X	X	X
	C59562-4	N/A	65700	N/A	X	X	X	X	X	X
	C59562-20	N/A	65700	N/A	X	X	X	X	X	X
Torque link medium pin	C62041-1	N/A	65700	N/A	X	X	X	X	X	X
	C62041-15	N/A	65700	N/A	X	X	X	X	X	X
	C62041-20	N/A	65700	N/A	X	X	X	X	X	X
	C62041-200	N/A	65700	N/A	X	X	X	X	X	X
	D53431	N/A	65700	N/A	X	X	X	X	X	X
	D53431-20	N/A	65700	N/A	X	X	X	X	X	X
Torque link medium pin nut	SL40110P	N/A	(3)	N/A	X	X	X	X	X	X
SHOCK ABSORBER ASSEMBLY										
(1) Limitation applicable to WV01 & WV03 only.										
(2) Limitation applicable to WV 00 only.										
(3) Limitation applicable to WV 06 only.										
(4) Part must be replaced by a new one every time it is removed from the sliding rod.										
(5) Part must be replaced by a new one every time it is removed from the upper rod.										
Upper cam dowel	C62270	N/A	(4)	N/A	X	X	X	X	X	X
Upper cam	C62034-1	N/A	65700	N/A	X	X	X	X	X	X
	C62034-10	N/A	65700	N/A	X	X	X	X	X	X
	C68534	N/A	65700	N/A	X	X	X	X	X	X

Part Name	Part Number	SAFE LIFE LIMITS (*)			Affected Model(s)					
		FH	LDG	Cal	B2-1A B2-1C	B2K-3C B2-20x	B2-320	B4-2C B4-1xx	B4-2xx	C4-203 F4-203
Lower cam	C62035	N/A	65700	N/A	X	X	X	X	X	X
	C62035-1	N/A	65700	N/A	X	X	X	X	X	X
	C68532	N/A	65700	N/A	X	X	X	X	X	X
Restrictor	C62036	N/A	65700	N/A					X (3)	X (3)
	C62036-1	N/A	65700	N/A	X	X (1)				
	C62036-2	N/A	65700	N/A		X (2)				
	C62036-10	N/A	65700	N/A	X	X (1)				
	C67863	N/A	65700	N/A	X	X (1)				
	C67863-1	N/A	65700	N/A	X	X (1)	X	X	X	X
	C67863-2	N/A	65700	N/A	X	X	X	X	X	X
	C67863-3	N/A	65700	N/A	X	X (1)				
	C67863-4	N/A	65700	N/A	X	X	X	X	X	X
	C67863-5	N/A	65700	N/A	X	X (1)				
	C67863-10	N/A	65700	N/A	X	X (1)	X	X	X	X
	C67863-20	N/A	65700	N/A	X	X	X	X	X	X
	C67863-30	N/A	65700	N/A	X	X (1)				
	C67863-40	N/A	65700	N/A	X	X	X	X	X	X
	D68536	N/A	65700	N/A	X	X	X	X	X	X
Lower cam dowel	C62866	N/A	(5)	N/A	X	X	X	X	X	X
Nut (S/A/Barrel)	C64040	N/A	(5)	N/A					X (3)	X (3)
	C64040-1	N/A	(5)	N/A	X	X	X	X	X	X

(h) No Alternative Actions or Intervals

After the maintenance or inspection program has been revised as required by paragraph (g) of this AD, no alternative actions (e.g., inspections) or intervals may be used unless the actions or intervals are approved as an alternative method of compliance (AMOC) in accordance with the procedures specified in paragraph (j)(1) of this AD.

(i) Terminating Action for AD 2014-16-13

Accomplishing the actions required by this AD terminates all requirements of AD 2014-16-13.

(j) 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 (k)(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 European Aviation Safety Agency (EASA); or Airbus's EASA Design Organization

Approval (DOA). If approved by the DOA, the approval must include the DOA-authorized signature.

(k) Related Information

(1) Refer to Mandatory Continuing Airworthiness Information (MCAI) EASA Airworthiness Directive 2017-0145, dated August 31, 2017, 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-2018-0390.

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

(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>. You may view this service information at the FAA, Transport Standards Branch, 2200 South 216th Street, Des Moines, WA. For information on the availability of this material at the FAA, call 206-231-3195.

Issued in Des Moines, Washington, on April 27, 2018.

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

[FR Doc. 2018-09847 Filed: 5/10/2018 8:45 am; Publication Date: 5/11/2018]