

Continued Airworthiness Notification to the International Community

To: Civil Aviation Authorities

Date: June 8, 2018

From: Federal Aviation Administration (FAA)
New England Region, AIR-6A0
Engine and Propeller Standards Branch
1200 District Avenue
Burlington, MA 01803

Subject: This message is to advise you of the FAA's ongoing activities related to an uncontained engine failure on an Engine Alliance (EA) GP7200 series turbofan engine.

Accident/ Incident Description: On September 30, 2017, an uncontained engine failure occurred on an EA GP7270 turbofan engine installed on an Airbus A380 airplane, operated by Air France. The engine had 30,683 operating hours and 3,527 cycles since new. The number 4 engine fan rotor, inlet cowl, fan cowl, and fan containment case separated from the engine. In response to that incident, the FAA issued Emergency Airworthiness Directive (AD) 2017-21-51 on October 12, 2017 to mandate a one-time visual inspection of all GP7200 series engine fan hubs. The root cause for the failure is not known, however, as an additional interim measure, the FAA is planning to issue a second AD to require an eddy current inspection (ECI) and additional visual inspection of certain high-risk GP7200 series engine fan hubs for damage.

Aircraft/ Engine Make, Model and Series: EA GP7200 series turbofan engines, installed on Airbus A380 airplanes.

U.S.-registered fleet: None. **Worldwide fleet:** 128 Airplanes / 587 engines (including spares).

Operators: Qatar Airways, Emirates and Etihad Airways (UAE), Air France, Korean Air.

Ongoing activities: The subject incident is currently under investigation led by the French Bureau d'Enquêtes et d'Analyses (BEA) with participation from the NTSB, FAA, EA, EASA, Air France, and Airbus. EA has issued Alert Service Bulletin (ASB) EAGP7-A72-383, Revision No. 1, dated October 7, 2017 that requires visual inspections of all GP7200 series engine fan hubs for damage. EA has also issued ASB EAGP7-A72-389, Revision No. 2, dated April 17, 2018 that requires ECI and an additional visual inspection for certain engine fan hubs. We expect issuance of an AD addressing the failure will occur in the near future (refer to Docket No. FAA-2018-0501 at <http://www.regulations.gov>). The investigation is continuing, and the FAA may issue additional mandatory actions.

Next update, if any: None.

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