European Union Aviation Safety Agency

Airworthiness Directive

AD No.: 2020-0225

Issued: 16 October 2020

Note: This Airworthiness Directive (AD) is issued by EASA, acting in accordance with Regulation (EU) 2018/1139 on behalf of the European Union, its Member States and of the European third countries that participate in the activities of EASA under Article 129 of that Regulation.

This AD is issued in accordance with Regulation (EU) 748/2012, Part 21.A.3B. In accordance with Regulation (EU) 1321/2014 Annex I, Part M.A.301, the continuing airworthiness of an aircraft shall be ensured by accomplishing any applicable ADs. Consequently, no person may operate an aircraft to which an AD applies, except in accordance with the requirements of that AD, unless otherwise specified by the Agency [Regulation (EU) 1321/2014 Annex I, Part M.A.303] or agreed with the Authority of the State of Registry [Regulation (EU) 2018/1139, Article 71 exemption].

Design Approval Holder's Name:
AIRBUS

Type/Model designation(s):
A380 aeroplanes

Effective Date: 30 October 2020

TCDS Number(s): EASA.A.110

Foreign AD: Not applicable

Supersedure: None

ATA 54 – Nacelles / Pylons – Pylon Box Zone D Sealing – Modification

---

Manufacturer(s):
Airbus

Applicability:
Airbus A380-841, A380-842 and A380-861 aeroplanes, all manufacturer serial number, except those on which Airbus modification (mod) 78442, mod 78443, mod 78444 and mod 78445 (for models A380-841 and A380-842, with Rolls-Royce RB211 Trent 900 engines installed) have been embodied in production.

Definitions:
For the purpose of this AD, the following definition applies:

The applicable SB: Airbus Service Bulletin (SB) A380-54-8090 and SB A380-54-8091, as applicable.

Reason:
During the validation process of a new maintenance task on the pylon assembly line, a lack of sealant was noticed on rib 13 screw heads and along rib 14 corner, at the interface between zone D and zone C of the pylon box.

This condition, if not corrected, could lead to fuel leakage, dropping on hot parts, possibly resulting in a fire or explosion and consequent loss of the aeroplane.

To address this unsafe condition, Airbus developed sets of modifications, improving the sealing performance of the pylon box, and published the applicable SB to provide instructions for in-service modification.

For the reasons described above, this AD requires a modification by applying additional sealant on primary structure on the top of each pylon box.

Required Action(s) and Compliance Time(s):

Required as indicated, unless accomplished previously:

Modification:

Within 42 months after the effective date of this AD, apply sealant on zone D on top of each pylon box in accordance with the instructions of the applicable SB.

Ref. Publications:

Airbus SB A380-54-8090 original issue dated 21 July 2020.

Airbus SB A380-54-8091 original issue dated 21 July 2020.

The use of later approved revisions of the above-mentioned documents is acceptable for compliance with the requirements of this AD.

Remarks:

1. If requested and appropriately substantiated, EASA can approve Alternative Methods of Compliance for this AD.

2. This AD was posted on 10 September 2020 as PAD 20-139 for consultation until 08 October 2020. The Comment Response Document can be found in the EASA Safety Publications Tool, in the compressed (zipped) file attached to the record for this AD.

3. Enquiries regarding this AD should be referred to the EASA Programming and Continued Airworthiness Information Section, Certification Directorate. E-mail: ADs@easa.europa.eu.

4. Information about any failures, malfunctions, defects or other occurrences, which may be similar to the unsafe condition addressed by this AD, and which may occur, or have occurred on a product, part or appliance not affected by this AD, can be reported to the EU aviation safety reporting system. This may include reporting on the same or similar components, other than those covered by the design to which this AD applies, if the same unsafe condition can exist or may develop on an aircraft with those components installed. Such components may be installed under an FAA Parts Manufacturer Approval (PMA), Supplemental Type Certificate (STC) or other modification.

5. For any question concerning the technical content of the requirements in this AD, please contact: Airbus – IIANA (Airworthiness Office), Telephone: +33 562 110 253, Fax: +33 562 110 307, E-mail: account.airworth-A380@airbus.com.