

Continued Airworthiness Notification to the International Community

To: Civil Aviation Authorities

Date: January 13, 2021

From: Federal Aviation Administration
Aircraft Certification Service
Compliance & Airworthiness Division

Subject: This message is to advise you of the FAA's ongoing continued operational activities related to missing sealant on the left- and right-wing leading edge outboard blowout door on certain Boeing Model 737-9 airplanes.

Situation description: The FAA received a report indicating that the application of sealant on the left- and right-wing leading edge outboard blowout door was missed during the airplane manufacturing process on certain Model 737-9 (737 MAX) airplanes. The sealant is intended to act as a fuel barrier. In the event of a substantial fuel leak from the wing box, missing sealant could result in an unintended drain path allowing fuel to come into contact with the engine. This condition, if not addressed, could lead to a large ground fire.

Aircraft/engine make, model, and series: Boeing Model 737-9 airplanes

U.S.-registered fleet: 14 airplanes; **Worldwide fleet:** 25 airplanes

Operators: United Airlines, Copa Airlines, FlyDubai, IcelandAir, and Turkish Airlines

Ongoing activities: The FAA will issue a notice of proposed rulemaking to require inspecting for missing sealant on the blowout door, and applying sealant if necessary.

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