

AIRWORTHINESS DIRECTIVE

released by DIRECTION GENERALE DE L'AVIATION CIVILE

Inspection and/or modifications described below are mandatory. No person may operate a product to which this Airworthiness Directive applies except in accordance with the requirements of this Airworthiness Directive.

Translation of 'Consigne de Navigabilité' ref. : 2001-388-058(B)
In case of any difficulty, reference should be made to the French original issue.

ATR

ATR 72 aircraft

Flight controls - Normal pitch trim switches (ATA 27)

1. APPLICABILITY:

The present AD applies to ATR 72-101, -102, -201, -202, -211, 212 and -212A series aircraft models on which ATR modification 5339 (Service Bulletin ATR 72-27-1055) has not been embodied.

2. REASON:

On January 1st, 2001, an ATR 42-300 experienced a temporary elevator pitch trim runaway which resulted to a nose up motion. During manual approach, following operation and released of the pitch trim, the trim warning sounded and column load steadily increased. Total time of runaway was approximately 4 seconds, at the end of which the out of trim force was heavy but easily held by one pilot. The pilot coarsely trimmed using the pitch trim switch (roller) and, in avoiding then using the roller, landed with a small amount of trim force.

Investigation found the roller mounting nut on First Officer pitch trim support loose, this possibly led to jamming on nose up trim selection. It was further confirmed that a not secured roller mounting nut could result in a roller jamming but only in nose up position.

In case of jamming of the roller, the pilot has no specific means to detect the cause of the problem, however the jamming is easily releasable and any slight movement on the rollers would unlock it.

The pitch trim runaway is manageable in all cases and the residual effort needed to land the aircraft after having stopped the trim runaway have been assessed acceptable.

The actions rendered mandatory by the present AD are intended to prevent a temporary elevator pitch trim runaway which could result from a not secured roller mounting nut on pitch trim support.

3. ACTIONS:

- 3.1** Within 3 months from the effective date of this AD, inspect and restore the correct fastening of the roller mounting nut on the elevator pitch trim support in accordance with the instructions of Service Bulletin ATR 72-27-1054.
- 3.2** Within 2 years after implementation of the requirements of paragraph 3.1, or before November 1st, 2003, whichever occurs first modify the roller mounting nut safetying on the elevator pitch trim support according to the instructions given by Service Bulletin ATR 72-27-1055.

REF.: Service Bulletin ATR 72-27-1054
Service Bulletin ATR 72-27-1055
Any later approved revision is acceptable.

EFFECTIVE DATE :

Upon receipt from SEPTEMBER 05, 2001