



## Airworthiness Directive

**AD No.:** 2021-0277

**Issued:** 14 December 2021

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 Change Approval Holder's Name:** AIRBUS DEFENCE AND SPACE S.A.  
**Modification(s):** Conversion to MRTT configuration

**Effective Date:** 28 December 2021

**STC Number(s):** EASA Supplemental Type Certificates (STC) 10029272 (formerly STC EASA.A.S.02790), 10063084, 10064192, 10064600 and 10069256.

**Foreign AD:** Not applicable

**Supersedure:** None

### ATA 53 – Fuselage – Aft Pressure Bulkhead – Inspection

### ATA 31 – Indicating / Recording Systems – Digital Flight Data Recorder Hood Assembly – Replacement

#### Manufacturer(s):

Airbus, formerly Airbus Industrie

#### Applicability:

Airbus A330-202, A330-203 and A330-243 aeroplanes, all manufacturer serial numbers (MSN), if modified in accordance with EASA STC 10029272 (previously STC EASA.A.S.02790), 10063084, 10064192, 10064600 or 10069256.

#### Definitions:

For the purpose of this AD, the following definitions apply:

**Affected part:** Digital Flight Data Recorder (DFDR) Hood Assembly, Part Number (P/N) F310A1910000.

**Serviceable part:** DFDR Hood Assembly P/N F925A1941002 and related DFDR Front Cover Assembly P/N F925A1942000.



**The AOT:** Airbus Defence & Space (ADS) Alert Operators Transmission (AOT)  
AOT-A330MRTT-31-0003

**The SB:** ADS SB A330MRTT-53-0047.

**Reason:**

Damage to the outside surface of the aft pressure bulkhead has been reported on two aeroplanes. Following investigations, it has been determined that mechanical interference possibly occurs during pressurization cycles between the aft pressure bulkhead and the DFDR hood assembly, with consequent damage to the bulkhead surface protection.

This condition, if not detected and corrected, could result in further structural damage to this composite bulkhead, possibly leading to cabin depressurization and reduced control of the aeroplane.

To address this potential unsafe condition, ADS issued the AOT, to provide instructions for inspection of the aft pressure bulkhead. ADS also designed a smaller DFDR hood assembly, which prevents mechanical interference with subject bulkhead, and issued the SB, to provide instructions to replace the affected part with a serviceable part.

For the reason described above, this AD requires repetitive detailed inspections (DET) of the aft pressure bulkhead and, depending on findings, accomplishment of applicable corrective action(s). This AD also requires replacement of the DFDR Hood Assembly as terminating action for the repetitive inspections required by this AD.

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

Required as indicated, unless accomplished previously:

**Inspection(s):**

- (1) Within 10 flight cycles after the effective date of this AD, and, thereafter, at intervals not exceeding the values as specified in table 1 of the AOT, accomplish a DET of the aft pressure bulkhead in accordance with the instructions of the AOT.

**Corrective Action(s):**

- (2) If, during any inspection as required by paragraph (1) of this AD, any discrepancy is detected, before next flight, accomplish an ultrasonic inspection of the aft pressure bulkhead in accordance with the instructions of the AOT, contact ADS for approved repair instructions, and, within the compliance time specified therein, accomplish those instructions accordingly.

**Modification/Replacement:**

- (3) Within 18 months after the effective date of this AD, unless already accomplished as required by paragraph (2) of this AD, replace the affected part with a serviceable part in accordance with the instructions of the SB.



**Terminating Action:**

- (4) Accomplishment of a repair on an aeroplane as required by paragraph (2) of this AD does not constitute terminating action for the repetitive inspections as required by paragraph (1) of this AD for that aeroplane, unless otherwise stated in the ADS approved repair instructions.
- (5) Modification of an aeroplane in accordance with the instructions of the SB constitutes terminating action for the repetitive inspections as required by paragraph (1) of this AD for that aeroplane.

**Part Installation:**

- (6) After accomplishment of a repair on an aeroplane as required by paragraph (2) of this AD, or after modification of an aeroplane as required by paragraph (3) of this AD, as applicable, do not install any affected part on that aeroplane.

**Ref. Publications:**

ADS AOT AOT-A330MRTT-31-0003 original issue dated 20 November 2020, and Revision 1 dated 27 July 2021.

ADS SB A330MRTT-53-0047 original issue dated 09 July 2021, and Revision 01 dated 04 November 2021.

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. Based on the required actions and the compliance time, EASA have decided to issue a Final AD with Request for Comments, postponing the public consultation process until after publication.
3. Enquiries regarding this AD should be referred to the EASA Safety Information Section, Certification Directorate. E-mail: [ADs@easa.europa.eu](mailto: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 D&S – Engineering Support – Service Engineering, Airbus Military Technical Assistance Center (AMTAC); Tel: (+34) 91 600 79 99 and E-mail: [mtad.militaryderivatives@airbus.com](mailto:mtad.militaryderivatives@airbus.com).

