Airworthiness Directive

AD No.: 2016-0124

Issued: 22 June 2016

Note: This Airworthiness Directive (AD) is issued by EASA, acting in accordance with Regulation (EC) 216/2008 on behalf of the European Union, its Member States and of the European third countries that participate in the activities of EASA under Article 66 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 (EC) 216/2008, Article 14(4) exemption].

Design Approval Holder's Name:
DASSAULT AVIATION

Type/Model designation(s):
Falcon 7X aeroplanes

Effective Date: 06 July 2016

TCDS Number(s): EASA.A.155

Foreign AD: Not applicable

Supersedure: None

ATA 51 – Structures – Rivets – Removal / Replacement

Manufacturer(s):
Dassault Aviation

Applicability:
Falcon 7X aeroplanes, serial numbers from 15 through 89 inclusive, from 92 through 94 inclusive, from 97 through 101 inclusive, 105 and 106.

Reason:
During an internal review of the manufacturing files, it was found that 20 rivets installed on the cockpit upper skin are not compliant with the original type design. Those 20 MGPL type rivets have a shank longer than necessary and, in case of a bird strike under maximum energy impact, the cockpit upper skin deformation would lead to interference between the rivet shank and the cockpit mounted overhead panel.

This condition, if not corrected, could affect the functioning of essential flight control systems, possibly resulting in reduced control of the aeroplane.

To address this potential unsafe condition, Dassault Aviation published Service Bulletin (SB) F7X-176, providing instructions for replacement of the rivets.

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For the reasons described above, this AD requires removal of affected rivets and replacement with serviceable rivets compliant with original type design.

Required Action(s) and Compliance Time(s):
Required as indicated, unless accomplished previously:

Before exceeding 99 months or 4 100 flight cycles, whichever occurs first since date of first delivery of the aeroplane, modify the aeroplane by replacing the affected MGPL type rivets installed on the cockpit skin panel with solid types rivets in accordance with the instructions of Dassault Aviation SB 7X-176.

Ref. Publications:
Dassault Aviation SB Falcon 7X-176 dated 03 February 2016.

The use of later approved revisions of this document 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 19 April 2016 as PAD 16-057 for consultation until 17 May 2016. No comments were received during the consultation period.

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

3. For any question concerning the technical content of the requirements in this AD, please contact your Dassault Falcon Technical Assistance:
   - For Europe, Middle East and Africa based operators:

     Hot Line: (33) 1 47 11 37 37
   - For USA, Canada and Mexico based operators:

     Help Desk: (1) 800-2FALCON (2325266)
   - All other areas:
     Help Desk: (1) 201 541 4747

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