Airworthiness Directive

AD No.: 2020-0014

Issued: 29 January 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:
DASSAULT AVIATION

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

Effective Date: 12 February 2020

TCDS Number(s): EASA.A.155

Foreign AD: Not applicable

Supersedure: None

ATA – Enhanced Avionics System – Software Check

Manufacturer(s):
Dassault Aviation (Dassault)

Applicability:
Falcon 7X aeroplanes, all serial numbers (s/n) having embodied modification (mod) M1000 (commercially known as Falcon 8X), that have also embodied Dassault mod M1745 in production, or Dassault Service Bulletin (SB) 7X-430 in service.

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

The SB: Dassault Falcon SB 7X-516.

The correct SW version: Easy III - 2nd Cert (Load 16.4) software (SW) with a software built date 24-May-2017, or later SW version.

The correct CD-ROM: EASy III - 2nd Cert (Load 16.4) CD-ROM engraved with "CRC : B145 9253" markings, or CD-Rom for later EASy software version.

Groups: Group 1 aeroplanes are s/n 402 to s/n 457 inclusive. Group 2 are other aeroplanes.

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Reason:

An occurrence was reported where, during maintenance, incorrect EASy "Top-Level System" operational SW version was found to have been loaded into a Falcon 8X. This loading was made possible because of an improper CD-ROM that was found on board the aeroplane.

This condition, if not detected and corrected, could lead to misleading information and erroneous behaviour of the guidance/aeroplane, possibly affecting functional capabilities and resulting in the reduction of the safety margins.

To address this potential unsafe condition, Dassault published the SB providing instructions for checks of uploaded SW version and removal of any incorrect CD-ROM on board.

For the reason described above, this AD requires a one-time check of the uploaded avionics system SW version and of the CD-ROM on board and, depending on findings, accomplishment of applicable corrective action(s).

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

Required as indicated, unless accomplished previously:

Checks:

(1) Group 1 aeroplanes: Within 30 days after the effective date of this AD, check the SW EASy "Top-Level System" operational software version loaded into the avionics system and check the CD-ROM on board of the aeroplane in accordance with the instructions of the SB section 7X-516-1.

Flight Operation Limitation:

(2) If, during the SW version check as required by paragraph (1) of this AD, the loaded system in the avionics system does not have the correct SW version, as defined in this AD, before next flight, amend the applicable Aircraft Flight Manual (AFM), Limitations Section, by limiting the use of VNAV in descent. Amending the applicable AFM can be accomplished by inserting a copy of the AFM Limitation, as specified in Figure 1 of this AD into the AFM. Amending the AFM by incorporating an AFM revision containing the limitation specified in Figure 1 of this AD is an acceptable method to comply with this paragraph.

Figure 1 – Limitations VNAV

Do not use VNAV mode for descent

Corrective Action(s):

(3) If, during the CD-ROM check as required by paragraph (1) of the AD, the correct CD-ROM, as defined in this AD, is not on board of the aeroplane, within 2 months after the effective date of this AD, remove the incorrect CD-ROM from the aeroplane and install on board the correct CD-ROM in accordance with the instructions of the SB section 7X-516-2.

(4) If, during the SW version check as required by paragraph (1) of the AD, the loaded system does not have the correct SW version, as defined in this AD, within 2 months after the effective date

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of this AD, upload the correct SW version, as defined in this AD, in accordance with the instructions of the SB section 7X-516-3.

Removal of Flight Operation Limitation:

(5) Following accomplishment of corrective action on an aeroplane, as required by paragraph (4) of this AD, the VNAV limitation, as required by paragraph (2) of this AD, can be removed from the AFM of that aeroplane.

SW Upload:

(6) Group 1 and Group 2 aeroplanes: From the effective date of this AD, do not upload any EASy "Top-Level System" operational software SW version into the avionics system of an aeroplane, unless it is the correct SW version, as defined in this AD.

CD-ROM On Board Installation:

(7) Group 1 and Group 2 aeroplanes: From the effective date of this AD, do not install on board an aeroplane a CD-ROM for SW version upload into the avionics system, unless it is the correct CD-ROM, as defined in this AD.

Ref. Publications:

Dassault Aviation SB 7X-516 original issue dated 28 November 2019.

The use of later approved revisions of the above-mentioned 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. 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 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.

5. For any question concerning the technical content of the requirements in this AD, please contact your Dassault Falcon Technical Assistance:
   - For operators based in Europe, Middle East or Africa: Hot Line: (33) 1 47 11 37 37
   - For operators based in the USA, Canada or Mexico: Help Desk: (1) 800-2FALCON (2325266)
   - For operators based in other areas: Help Desk: (1) 201 541 4747

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