Airworthiness Directive

AD No.: **2015-0216**

Issued: **28 October 2015**

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

Effective Date:	11 November 2015
TCDS Number(s):	EASA.A.155
Foreign AD:	Not applicable
Supersedure:	None

ATA 39 – Lightning – Fuel Tank Wall Panels – Inspection / Repair

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Manufacturer(s):
Dassault Aviation

Applicability:
Falcon 7X aeroplanes, serial numbers (S/N) 17 to 21 inclusive, S/N 86 to 90 inclusive, S/N 115 to 119 inclusive, S/N 129 to 138 inclusive and S/N 155.

Reason:
Several rear fuselage tanks of the Falcon 7X were assembled on the production line with a lateral panel, which had been excessively chemically-milled in some areas. Investigation results determined that the remaining thickness is insufficient to meet the certification requirements. Dassault Aviation identified the individual aeroplanes that are potentially affected by this production deficiency. Due to this reduced thickness, the risk of damaging and puncturing a fuel tank wall panel as a result of a high energy lightning strike is increased.

This condition, if not detected and corrected, could lead to loss of electrical power and/or other essential functions, possibly resulting in reduced control of the aeroplane or ignition of a fuel tank.

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To address this potential unsafe condition, Dassault Aviation published Service Bulletin (SB) 7X-245 to provide inspection and repair instructions.
For the reasons described above, this AD requires a one-time inspection of the fuel tank wall panels and, depending on findings, accomplishment of a repair.

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, inspect and, depending on findings, repair the fuel tank panels of the aeroplane in accordance with the accomplishment instructions of Dassault Aviation SB 7X-245.

Ref. Publications:
Dassault Aviation F7X SB 7X-245 original issue dated 08 June 2015.

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 10 September 2015 as PAD 15-084 for consultation until 09 October 2015. 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.

4. For any question concerning the technical content of the requirements in this AD, please contact your Dassault Falcon Technical Center:

   - For Europe, Middle East and Africa based operators:

     Hot Line: (33) 1 47 11 37 37 / Fax: (33) 1 47 11 89 49

   - For USA, Canada and Mexico based operators:

     Help Desk: (1) 800-2FALCON (2325266)

   - All other areas:
     (1) 201 541 4747

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