Airworthiness Directive

AD No.: 2016-0250

Issued: 15 December 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: 29 December 2016

TCDS Number(s): EASA.A.155

Foreign AD: Not applicable

Supersedure: None

ATA 51 – Structures – Fuselage Section T5 Lateral Panels – Inspection

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Manufacturer(s):
Dassault Aviation (DA)

Applicability:
Falcon 7X aeroplanes, serial number (s/n) 2 to 19 inclusive, except s/n 3 and s/n 18.

Reason:
A few pockets of fuselage Section T5 lateral panels were manufactured with defects in certain chemically-milled profiles. The technical investigation concluded that the fatigue limit of the affected panels might be reduced, depending on the defect characteristics.

This condition, if not detected and corrected, could lead to crack propagation, possibly resulting in reduced structural integrity of the fuselage.

To address this potential unsafe condition, DA published Service Bulletin (SB) F7X-042 providing inspection instructions.

For the reasons described above, this AD requires a one-time inspection of the chemically-milled profiles of the pockets of the Section T5 fuselage lateral panels and, depending on findings, accomplishment of applicable corrective action(s). This AD also requires, for some aeroplanes, the installation of a stiffener on the forward pocket.

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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, accomplish the following actions, as applicable, in accordance with the instructions of DA SB 7X-042:

For all affected aeroplanes:
(1) Inspect the pockets of the Section T5 fuselage lateral panels as relevant to each aeroplane.

(2) If, during the inspection as required by paragraph (1) of this AD, any discrepancy as defined in DA SB 7X-042 is identified, contact DA for approved repair instructions, and, within the compliance time(s) specified in those instructions, accomplish the repair accordingly.

For aeroplanes s/n 16, 17 and 19:
(3) Install stiffener on the forward pocket.

Ref. Publications:
Dassault Aviation SB Falcon 7X-042 original issue dated 03 January 2011, or Revision 1 dated 03 May 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 23 September 2016 as PAD 16-136 for consultation until 21 October 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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