Airworthiness Directive

AD No.: 2017-0067

Issued: 24 April 2017

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:
SAAB AB, AERONAUTICS

Type/Model designation(s):
SAAB 340B aeroplanes

Effective Date: 08 May 2017

TCDS Number(s): EASA.A.068

Foreign AD: Not applicable

Supersedure: None

ATA 27 – Flight Controls – Stall Warning and Identification System / Stall Warning Computer – Modification / Replacement

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Manufacturer(s):
SAAB AB, Aeronautics (formerly SAAB Aerosystems)

Applicability:
SAAB 340B aeroplanes, serial numbers (s/n) 362, 363, 385 and 405.

Reason:
A few natural stall events, specifically when operating in icing conditions, have been experienced on SAAB 340 series aeroplanes, without receiving a prior stall warning.

This condition, if not corrected, could result in loss of control of the aeroplane.

To address this potential unsafe condition, SAAB developed a modified stall warning system, incorporating improved stall warning logic, and issued various Service Bulletins (SB) providing instructions to replace the Stall Warning Computer (SWC) with a new SWC, and instructions to activate the new SWC. The new system includes stall warning curves optimized for operation in icing conditions, which are activated by selection of Engine Anti-Ice.

Consequently, EASA issued AD 2014-0218 to require installation and activation of the improved SWC. That AD excluded certain SAAB 340B aeroplanes by s/n.

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Since EASA AD 2014-0218 was issued, SAAB developed a technical solution applicable for some of those previously excluded aeroplanes, and issued SB 340-27-117 and SB 340-27-118, providing instructions to modify and activate the new SWC.

For the reasons described above, this AD requires installation and activation of the improved SWC.

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

Modification:
(1) Within 12 months after the effective date of this AD, modify the aeroplane in accordance with the instructions of SAAB SB 340-27-117 and SB 340-27-118.

Parts Installation:
(2) After modification of an aeroplane as required by this AD, do not install any SWC P/N 20AK5 or P/N 0020AK5 on that aeroplane.

Ref. Publications:
SAAB SB 340-27-117 original issue dated 23 January 2017.

SAAB SB 340-27-118 original issue dated 23 January 2017.

The use of later approved revisions of these 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. This AD was posted on 16 March 2017 as PAD 17-032 for consultation until 13 April 2017. 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: SAAB AB, Support and Services, SE-581 88 Linköping, Sweden, Fax: +46 13 184874, E-mail: saab340.techsupport@saabgroup.com.

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