Airworthiness Directive

AD No.: 2026-0182

Issued: 21 September 2026

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, or Annex Vb Part ML.A.301, as applicable, 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 Annex Vb Part ML.A.303, as applicable] or agreed with the Authority of the State of Registry [Regulation (EU) 2018/1139, Article 71 exemption].

Design Approval Holder's Name:

AIRBUS S.A.S.

Type/Model designation(s):

A319 and A321 aeroplanes

Effective Date: 05 October 2026

TCDS Number(s): EASA.A.064

Foreign AD: Note applicable

Supersedure: None

ATA 55 – Stabilizers – Elevators – Inspections / Replacement

Manufacturer(s):

Airbus, formerly Airbus Industrie

Applicability:

Airbus A319-151N, A319-153N, A319-171N, A319-173N, A321-251N, A321-251NX, A321-252N, A321-252NX, A321-253N, A321-253NX, A321-271N, A321-271NX, A321-272N and A321-272NX, aeroplanes, all manufacturer serial numbers (MSN).

Definitions:

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

Affected part: Elevators having a Part Number (P/N) as listed in the Appendix 1 of this AD**.**

Serviceable part: Elevators, eligible for installation in accordance with Airbus approved instructions, that are not an affected part.

The SB: Airbus Service Bulletin (SB) A320-320-55-1071.

Groups:

Group 1 aeroplanes are those having an affected part installed.

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Group 2 aeroplanes are those which are not Group 1 aeroplanes.

Affected NEO aeroplanes: Airbus A319-151N, A319-153N, A319-171N, A319-173N, A320-251N, A320-252N, A320-253N, A320-271N, A320-272N, A320-273N, A321-251N, A321-252N, A321-253N, A321-251NX, A321-252NX, A321-253NX, A321-271N, A321-272N, A321-271NX and A321-272NX aeroplanes.

Reason:

It was determined that elevator P/Ns on which Airbus modification (mod) 35515 was not embodied (pre-mod 35515) have been erroneously listed as eligible for installation in the Illustrated Part Catalogue (IPC) for the affected NEO models. However, only post-mod 35515 P/Ns are eligible for installation, according to the type definition of the NEO models. As per EASA AD 2014-0014, these pre-mod 35515 P/N must be inspected to detect, correct, and prevent water ingress.

This condition, if not detected and corrected, could lead to disbonding between the affected elevator panel skin and honeycomb core, affecting the structural integrity of the elevator structure, potentially leading to reduced control of the aeroplane.

To address this potential unsafe condition, Airbus issued the SB providing instruction for inspection and replacement of the pre-mod 35515 elevators of the NEO fleet.

For the reason described above, this AD request to inspect and replace the affected parts.

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

Required as indicated by this AD, unless the action(s) required by this AD have been already accomplished:

Inspection:

(1) For Group 1 aeroplanes: For each affected part, within 3 months after the effective date of this AD, accomplish a thermographic inspection of that affected part in accordance with the instructions of the SB.

(2) For an affected part that, before the effective date of this AD, has been inspected in accordance with the instructions of Airbus SB A320-55-1046 or Airworthiness Limitation Item (ALI) task 552007, the inspection as required by paragraph (1) of this AD can be postponed up to 6 years after the first flight of that affected part after that inspection (see Note 1 of this AD).

Note 1: Airbus SB A320-55-1046 or ALI task 552007 are not applicable to the affected NEO aeroplanes. The affected part could have been inspected while installed on a different aeroplane.

Corrective action(s):

(3) If, during the inspection as required by paragraph (1) of this AD, discrepancies, as defined in the SB, are detected, within the compliance time specified in the SB, accomplish the applicable corrective action(s) in accordance with the instructions of the SB.

Where the SB requires to contact Airbus for corrective action(s) instructions, this AD requires to

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contact Airbus before next flight for approved corrective action(s) instructions and, within the compliance time specified therein, to accomplish those instructions accordingly.

Modification:

(4) For Group 1 aeroplanes: Within 12 months after the effective date of this AD, replace each affected part with a serviceable part in accordance with the instructions of the SB.

Part(s) Installation:

(5) For Group 1 and Group 2 aeroplanes: From the effective date of this AD, do not install an affected part on any aeroplane (see Note 2 of this AD).

Note 2: Removal of an affected part from an aeroplane and subsequent reinstallation of that affected part on the same aeroplane, accomplished during a single maintenance visit, is not considered as 'install' as specified in paragraph (5) of this AD.

Ref. Publications:

Airbus SB A320-55-1071 original issue dated 31 July 2026.

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. All interested persons may send their comments, referencing the AD Number, to the E-mail address specified in below Remark 3, prior to 19 October 2026. Only if any comment is received during the consultation period, a Comment Response Document will be published in the EASA Safety Publications Tool, in a compressed ('zipped') file, attached to the record for this AD.

3. Enquiries regarding this AD should be referred to the EASA Safety 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. This may include reporting on the same or similar components, other than those covered by the design to which this AD applies, if the same unsafe condition can exist or may develop on an aircraft with those components installed. Such components may be installed under an FAA Parts Manufacturer Approval (PMA), Supplemental Type Certificate (STC) or other modification.

5. For any question concerning the technical content of the requirements in this AD, please contact: AIRBUS – Airworthiness Office – 1IASA; E-mail: account.airworth-eas@airbus.com .

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Appendix 1: List of P/N **without** Airbus mod 35515 embodied

Elevators pre Airbus mod 35515 P/N (first 12 digits only)			
Left-Hand Elevator		**Right-Hand Elevator**	
D55280001000	D55280003008	D55280001001	D55280003009
D55280003000	D55280003010	D55280003001	D55280003011
D55280003002	D55280003012	D55280003003	D55280003013
D55280003004	D55280003014	D55280003005	D55280003015
D55280001000	D55280003016	D55280001001	D55280003017
D55280001002	D55280003018	D55280001003	D55280003019
D55280001004	D55280003020	D55280001005	D55280003021
D55280001008	D55280003022	D55280001009	D55280003023
D55280001010	D55280003024	D55280001011	D55280003025
D55280001012	D55280003026	D55280001013	D55280003027
D55280003000	D55280003028	D55280003001	D55280003029
D55280003002	D55280003030	D55280003003	D55280003031
D55280003004	D55280003032	D55280003005	D55280003033
D55280003006	D55280003034	D55280003007	D55280003035

Appendix 2: List of elevators P/N **with** Airbus mod 35515 embodied
(for information only)

Elevators post Airbus mod 35515 P/N (first 12 digits only)	
LH Elevator	**RH Elevator**
D55280002000	D55280002001
D55280002002	D55280002003
D55280008000	D55280008001

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