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Aircraft maintenance during prolonged periods of inactivity

1. Applicability

This AIC shall apply to aircraft owners, continuing airworthiness management organizations and individuals / organizations performing aircraft maintenance.

2. Purpose

The purpose of this AIC is to remind interested parties of the applicable requirements and good practices related to the preservation of aircraft that remain inactive for a period of time.

3. Referenced documents

- ◆ Commission Regulation (EU) No 1321/2014 of 26 November 2014 *on the continuing airworthiness of aircraft and aeronautical products, parts and appliances, and on the approval of organizations and personnel involved in these tasks*, Annex I Subpart C — Continuing Airworthiness
- ◆ Approved Aircraft Maintenance Programmes
- ◆ Aircraft, engine and component manufacturer's instructions

4. General information

Aircraft that remain inactive and on ground for long periods still have to be maintained in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions. This will reduce financial costs for the owner when the time comes to reactivate the aircraft. It will also improve safety by preventing accidents and incidents due to wear or damage that occurs during the period of inactivity.

5. Aircraft maintenance during prolonged periods of inactivity

Each aircraft is required to be maintained in accordance with an approved Aircraft Maintenance Programme. Check periods included in such programmes reflect, among other factors, the anticipated utilization of each aircraft. When the anticipated utilization changes, these check periods must be reviewed.

When aircraft remain on ground for prolonged periods of time, the aircraft, engine and component manufacturer's instructions must be followed and the recommended maintenance tasks must be performed. Some manufacturers define short-term and long-term storage programmes for such cases. If there is doubt as to these instructions the owner / operator must contact the manufacturer.

Protective covers must be installed to all openings to prevent the ingress of moisture, dirt and foreign objects. Due to the environmental conditions on the Cyprus coastline, attention must also be given to the development of corrosion when the aircraft are not parked in a closed hangar.

It is of vital importance that manufacturer's instructions are followed also when returning an aircraft to service, following storage. In some cases, test flights may be necessary. This will ensure airworthiness and safety standards and may prevent accidents and incidents from occurring during normal operation.

6. Contact information

For any queries regarding this AIC please contact:
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