

Subject: BAE - AVRO146RJ registered SE-DSP, on 29/09/2016, at MMX airport - Sweden

Reply to Safety Recommendation SWED-2017-008 received on 11/09/2017

Safety Recommendation:	EASA is recommended to encourage that components that require specially approved maintenance facilities are sealed to detect unauthorized manipulation. (RL 2017:08 R2)
Response:	<p>EASA is aware that it is common practice for many products, parts and appliances to seal units or specific items after certain maintenance or production steps (e.g. after closure, installation, tightening, torqueing, calibration, adjustment). This applies to actions starting with production, including maintenance or repair of the components including those requiring special approved maintenance facilities.</p> <p>The assessment of the criticality of items for interfering with however requires detailed knowledge of the specific product and component, so it can only be performed by the Type Certificate (TC) holder, European Technical Standard Order or equivalent holder, and/or vendor who designed the item, and/or who decided to install the item to their product. It requires detailed knowledge about the susceptibility of the component to interference, and of the criticality of the function it performs. This includes assessing whether sealing components may hinder necessary inspections or checks required to be performed.</p> <p>EASA therefore agrees that "encouraging" is an appropriate level of action, and intends to publish safety promotion material aiming at the responsible authors of instructions for continued airworthiness for products, parts and components, highlighting the importance of identifying actions which require special skill, equipment or facilities, and related items or components which should be sealed to protect against unauthorized interference and to include the associated procedures (e.g. applying torque seal, applying a sticker) in the relevant manuals and instructions for continued airworthiness (e.g. Component Maintenance Manual, Aircraft Maintenance Manual, Overhaul Manual, Installation Manual). This should especially include mentioning the seals in the installation manuals/procedures of the affected components to make sure that only items with undamaged seals are installed.</p>
Status:	Open

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