

Case Study: Commercial Aircraft Asset Management

TECHNICAL ACUMEN - A case study of how Acumen Aviation stepped in to better understand the minute details of a particular AD/SB.

THE SITUATION

FAA Airworthiness Directive (AD) 2010-05-13 mandates detailed inspection of B737 airplanes as per SB 737 53A1162.

The AD results from reports of fuselage skin cracks adjacent to the skin lap joints on airplanes that had scribe lines. Scribe line damage can also occur at many other locations including butt joints, external doublers, door scuff plates, the wing-to-body fairing, and areas of the fuselage where decals have been applied or removed. The AD was issued to prevent rapid decompression of the airplane due to fatigue cracks resulting from scribe lines on pressurized fuselage structure. There are about 2600 plus airplanes worldwide identified as affected by this AD.

THE SOLUTION

During a C check monitoring project in South-East Asia, Acumen Aviation was able to help the airline and the lessor in decoding the highly complicated Special Inspection Scribe line Service Bulletin SB737 53A1262 resulting in capture of 63 and 67 scribe lines on two airplanes.

This is a special inspection document issued by Boeing for 737 airplanes containing 650 plus pages. Acumen Aviation stepped in on behalf of the lessor to decipher and ensure proper execution of the Service Bulletin.

THE RESULT

By doing so, Acumen Aviation helped the airline and lessor contain the financial exposure and take corrective action to safe-guard against an impact on the aircraft's health and value.

Acumen Aviation's initiative in pursuing the SB helped save millions of dollars for the lessor as well as the airline. It was also a major step towards ensuring that the safety of the aircraft was not compromised without escalating maintenance costs beyond control.