

(a) Effective Date

This airworthiness directive (AD) is effective June 1, 2023.

(b) Affected ADs

None.

(c) Applicability

This AD applies to all Boeing Model B-17E, B-17F, and B-17G airplanes, certificated in any category.

(d) Subject

Air Transport Association (ATA) of America Code 57, Wings.

(e) Unsafe Condition

This AD was prompted by a report indicating that the wing of one airplane had shifted away from the fuselage by about 2 inches, and the left front spar lower fitting had completely separated at the wing-to-fuselage joint, and additional cracking was found on the equivalent joint on the right side of the airplane. The FAA is issuing this AD to address these conditions, which, if not addressed, could result in loss of control of the airplane and reduced structural integrity of the airplane.

(f) Compliance

Comply with this AD within the compliance times specified, unless already done.

(g) Inspection

Before further flight: Perform inspections to detect cracking and corrosion by doing the actions specified in either paragraph (g)(1) or (2) of this AD. No action is required by this AD if all wing terminal fittings have been inspected in accordance with paragraph (b)(1) of AD 2001-22-06, Amendment 39-12485 (66 FR 54111, October 26, 2001), and, as of the effective date of this AD, no more than 10 years or 2,500 flight hours have accumulated since that inspection.

(1) Separate all 8 wing terminal-to-spar chord joints (wings off) and perform a magnetic particle inspection of the steel terminal fittings and an eddy current inspection of the 8 inboard holes in the end of the spar chord, in accordance with procedures approved by the Manager, West Certification Branch, FAA.

(2) On the left and right lower forward terminal fitting-to-spar chord joint assemblies, remove the most inboard fastener common to the spar cord and the terminal fitting, and do an eddy current bolt hole inspection on the steel terminal fittings and on the aluminum spar chord in accordance with procedures approved by the Manager, West Certification Branch, FAA.

(h) Repair

If any cracking or corrosion is found during the inspections required by paragraph (g) of this AD, repair before further flight using a method approved by the Manager, West Certification Branch, FAA.

(i) Report

At the applicable time specified in paragraph (i)(1) or (2) of this AD, submit a report of all findings (positive and negative) from the inspections required by paragraph (g) of this AD. The report must include a statement that no discrepancies were found or a description of any discrepancies found including the condition of the wing terminal-to-spar chord joints (terminal fitting and spar chord), the inspection procedure used, the airplane serial number, and the number of flight hours on the airplane. Submit the report to Eric Schrieber, Senior Engineer, West Certification Branch Airframe Section, email *Eric.Schrieber@faa.gov*.

(1) *If the inspection was done on or after the effective date of this AD:* Submit the report within 10 days after the inspection.

(2) *If the inspection was done before the effective date of this AD:* Submit the report within 10 days after the effective date of this AD.

(j) Alternative Methods of Compliance (AMOCs)

(1) The Manager, West Certification Branch, FAA, has the authority to approve AMOCs for this AD, if requested using the procedures found in 14 CFR 39.19. In accordance with 14 CFR 39.19, send your request to your principal inspector or responsible Flight Standards Office, as appropriate. If sending information directly to the manager of the certification office, send it to the attention of the person identified in paragraph (k) of this AD. Information may be emailed to *9-ANM-LAACO-AMOC-Requests@faa.gov*.

(2) Before using any approved AMOC, notify your appropriate principal inspector, or lacking a principal inspector, the manager of the responsible Flight Standards Office.

(k) Related Information

For more information about this AD, contact Eric Schrieber, Aerospace Engineer, Airframe Section, FAA, Airframe Section, West Certification Branch, 3960 Paramount Boulevard, Lakewood, CA 90712-4137; phone 562-627-5348; email *Eric.Schrieber@faa.gov*.

(l) Material Incorporated by Reference

None.