

# NOTICE

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION

N 8900.590

National Policy

Effective Date:  
8/1/21

Cancellation Date:  
8/1/22

**SUBJ:** Fuel Caps Separating from Airbus A318, A319, A320, and A321 Aircraft

---

- 1. Purpose of This Notice.** This notice ensures operators who utilize Airbus A318, A319, A320, and A321 aircraft are aware of Safety Alert for Operators (SAFO) 16013, Fuel Caps Separating from Aircraft, and its recommendations, and are managing the risk accordingly.
- 2. Audience.** The primary audience for this notice is the Flight Standards (FS) Airworthiness principal inspectors (PI) who oversee operators who utilize Airbus A318, A319, A320, and A321 aircraft. The secondary audience includes the Safety Standards and Foundational Business offices.
- 3. Where You Can Find This Notice.** You can find this notice on the MyFAA employee website at [https://employees.faa.gov/tools\\_resources/orders\\_notices](https://employees.faa.gov/tools_resources/orders_notices). Inspectors can access this notice through the Flight Standards Information Management System (FSIMS) at <https://fsims.avv.faa.gov>. Operators can find this notice on the Federal Aviation Administration's (FAA) website at <https://fsims.faa.gov>. This notice is available to the public at [https://www.faa.gov/regulations\\_policies/orders\\_notices](https://www.faa.gov/regulations_policies/orders_notices).
- 4. Background.** FAA investigations confirm public reports that an unsecured refueling cover (i.e., fuel cap) from an Airbus A319-112 aircraft fell into a person's yard on October 16, 2017. Nomenclature on the cap reads: "CAP, Pressure Fuel Servicing", J.C. Carter Co., P/N 61605A.
- 5. Discussion.** Similar safety recommendations in 2002 and 2009 address Airbus aircraft and the J.C. Carter and Shaw Aero Device fuel cap. In September 2004, Airbus issued a revised Service Information Letter (SIL) 28-041 to address fuel cap interchangeability and recommend the use of Airbus-approved refuel caps. In 2007, Transport Canada issued Service Difficulty Advisory No. AV-2007-01, Aircraft Fuel Caps Being Found on Runway and Taxi Surfaces, addressing the foreign object debris (FOD) risk these particular caps pose. On October 25, 2016, FS issued two overarching recommendations in SAFO 16013 intended to mitigate the risks associated with unsecured refueling covers. Following the recommended actions in SAFO 16013 ensures Airbus A318, A319, A320, and A321 aircraft:
  - a.** Maintenance and inspections programs continuously inspect, validate, and document refueling cover design and security; and
  - b.** Refueling personnel are properly trained to remove and replace aircraft fuel caps.

**6. Actions.** Airworthiness PIs who oversee Airbus A318, A319, A320, and A321 aircraft maintenance operations will:

- a. Share the information and recommendations in SAFO 16013 with the operator;
- b. Determine if the operator has accepted these recommendations or provide an alternate means to address or mitigate this risk;
- c. Request from the operator reporting/tracking data that indicate in-service issues related to fuel caps;
- d. Determine with the operator if in-service trends related to fuel caps are evident and verify correction actions are effective; and
- e. Schedule risk-based surveillance accordingly.

**7. Safety Assurance System (SAS) Recording.**

**a. Activity Recording (AR).** PIs who oversee Title 14 of the Code of Federal Regulations (14 CFR) part 91 subpart K (part 91K) or 125 operators or foreign air carriers operating U.S.-registered aircraft under 14 CFR part 129, § 129.14 who utilize Airbus A318, A319, A320, and A321 aircraft will use activity code 3323, enter “N8900.590” in the “National Use” field, document that they have shared SAFO 16013 with the operator, and record any further actions taken as this notice directs.

**b. SAS.** PIs who oversee 14 CFR part 121 or 135 operators who utilize Airbus A318, A319, A320, and A321 aircraft will initiate an action item on the Action Item Tracking Tool (AITT). PIs will select action item “other”; document “per N8900.590, they have shared SAFO 16013 with the operator” in the “Explanation” field; and then record any further actions taken as this notice directs in the “Comments” field.

**8. Disposition.** We will not incorporate the information in this notice into FAA Order 8900.1 before this notice expires. Direct questions or comments concerning the information in this notice to the Aircraft Maintenance Division (AFS-300) at 202-267-1675.



Robert C. Carty  
Deputy Executive Director, Flight Standards Service