

12/10/2009

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

2009-192/11-24

854542

To: Airbus Industries

Info: FAA (AFS-200, AFS-230, AFS-300, AFS-400, AFS-900, ANM-100, SEA-AEG, ASA-100),
AASC, ALPA, IFALPA, AMFA, APA, ASAP, ATA, IATA, CAPA, IAM, ICASS, IPA, PAMA,
TWU, USAPA

From: Linda J. Connell, Director
NASA Aviation Safety Reporting System

Re: A321 Foul Odor and Fumes

We recently received an ASRS report describing a safety concern which may involve your area of operational responsibility. We do not have sufficient details to assess either the factual accuracy or possible gravity of the report. It is our policy to relay the reported information to the appropriate authority for evaluation and any necessary follow-up. We feel you should be aware of the enclosed deidentified report.

To properly assess the usefulness of our alert message service, we would appreciate it if you would take the time to give us your feedback on the value of the information that we have provided. Please contact Gary Brauch at (408) 541-2800 or email at gary.j.brauch@nasa.gov.



Aviation Safety Reporting System
385 Moffet Park Dr · Suite 200 · Sunnyvale · CA · 94089



ACN: 854542

Time

Date: 200910

Local Time Of Day: 1201-1800

Place

Locale Reference.Airport: ZZZ.Airport

State Reference: US

Altitude.MSL.Single Value: 7000

Environment

Flight Conditions: VMC

Aircraft 1

ATC / Advisory.TRACON: ZZZ

Make Model Name: A321

Person 1

Function.Flight Crew: Captain

Function.Flight Crew: Pilot Flying

ASRS Report Number: 854542

Events

Anomaly.Flight Deck / Cabin / Aircraft Event: Smoke / Fire / Fumes / Odor

Detector.Person: Flight Attendant

Detector.Person: Flight Crew

Detector.Person: Passenger

Result.General: Maintenance Action

Result.Flight Crew: Took Evasive Action

Narrative 1

On approach, we experienced a very bad odor/fumes through approximately 7000 FT. It continued even on the ground with the APU supplying air to the air conditioning packs. Many of us experienced dizziness and lightheadedness. I also had a very bad taste in my mouth. The smell was that of dirty socks combined with synthetic oil. Many passengers and the entire crew reported the same. I went on 100% O2 on the ground and turned off the air-conditioning packs. I wrote up the fumes smell in the logbook and took the entire crew to the hotel where I kept an eye on them. They did not desire to go to the hospital and they were feeling better after getting out of the aircraft. We need to keep an eye on the Airbus fleet as this seems to be a recurring problem.

Callback 1

The reporter stated he did not go on oxygen until they were on the ground because he did not realize the odor's effect on him. Since he recently got glasses he thought that his vision difficulty related. He later realized how serious the situation was and that as the aircraft temperature increased from -60C at cruise to the very warm sea level temperature the smell became worse. On the ground they troubleshot the air conditioning and believe that the smell was coming from a PACK because the source of PACK air, engine or APU, made no difference. The crew ferried the aircraft to a maintenance station the next day and had no problems with it and maintenance had made no changes. The Reporter has not heard if his Company's Maintenance has determined the cause.

Synopsis

A321 flight crew reported a bad odor and fumes on approach. The pilots, flight attendants and passengers also experienced lightheaded feelings, a bad taste as well as the scent of dirty socks and oil.