

Fuel tank access panel gaskets

To improve system reliability

FLY FOKKER

Introduction

Fuel leakage sometimes occurs via the fuel tank access panels. This may be due to fatigue cracking of the panel or malfunction of the rubber seal.

The introduction of ePTFE seals on the fuel tank access panels increases dispatch reliability considerably. The new ePTFE seals and the introduction of new fuel tank access panels without a recess on the Fokker 50 will significantly reduce structural repairs. The ePTFE seals are developed and designed for easy installation and can be used numerous times.



Your needs

As a Fokker operator you aspire to the continuous, safe operation of your aircraft and high reliability of the aircraft systems. You wish to avoid unscheduled maintenance on fuel tank access panels. And you want to avoid flight delays/cancellations and unscheduled downtime caused by fuel leakage with the resulting negative repercussions for passengers.

Fatigue cracking in the fuel access panels may be another problem area. With the introduction of the new panels for the Fokker 50, fuel leakage and fatigue cracking will be a thing of the past. These new panels are developed without a recess and this minimizes fatigue failure and facilitates the easy installation of the ePTFE seals.

Maintenance

Current operator maintenance tasks are optimized and this results in fewer maintenance/inspection tasks, reducing DOC. Multiple usage of the ePTFE seals leads to significant savings on installation time and costs. Curing time of four hours and evaporation time of sixteen hours are no longer necessary.

The introduction and installation of the ePTFE seals are fully approved and integrated into the modern airline fleet maintenance system. With this modification Fokker Services offers significant cost savings on your DOC.

The fuel tank system reliability improvements are applicable to all airliners that operate F50/F60, F70 and F100 aircraft. The solution that Fokker Services offers is also available for other passenger aircraft types on request.

Your benefits

The introduction and installation of the ePTFE seals on your aircraft fleet will significantly improve dispatch reliability. At the aircraft system level and DOC, the benefits are as follows:

- improvement of fuel system reliability
- optimization of the installation of the newly-designed FOKKER 50 fuel tank access panels
- no more additional inspections for fatigue symptoms
- improvement of aircraft dispatch reliability
- potential reduction of maintenance costs
- improvement of installation procedures, easy to install and easy to remove
- no special storage requirements
- saving on installation time, because the curing time of seals is no longer applicable
- fewer skill-dependent maintenance staff are required for installation
- user and environment friendly
- no more scraping off existing sealant and reapplication
- ePTFE (brand name Teflon®) seals can be reused up to four times
- highly conformable to surface irregularities
- weight reduction

Product description

The ePTFE (brand name Teflon®) seals are available in different thicknesses and are engineered for specific applications. The most important material characteristics of Teflon® are:

- anti-adhesive properties, low friction coefficient, self-cleaning and self lubricating, chemically highly resistant, withstands high and low temperatures.

These are the most important characteristics for the application of seals for fuel tank access panels. The Teflon® seals continuously adapt to slight surface damage, they are less dependent on surface cleanliness and accept wider surface roughness. For the Fokker 50 this entails the installation of the newly-designed access panels. These panels no longer have recesses and, together with the new Teflon® seal, optimal sealing and installation is achieved.

The aircraft modification will be available with the following EASA-approved Service Bulletins:

- SBF100-57-041 tank seals for Fokker 70/100 aircraft
- SBF50-57-034 tank seals for Fokker 50/60 aircraft
- SBF50-57-035 tank panels for Fokker 50/60 aircraft

Approvals: EASA-approved under DOA 21J.059

Type Certificates: EASA.A.037 (Fokker F28/70/100), EASA.A.036 (Fokker F27/50/60)

Installation: The ePTFE seals can be easily installed on the fuel tank access panels for direct replacement. The installation does not require specific installation skills. Parts will be based on the die cut principle and do not require dedicated storage requirements.

FLYFokker for economic sense

The fuel tank access panel gaskets are part of FLYFokker, our full service Life Cycle Support program. FLYFokker comprises four solutions: Take Off, Take Care, Take Over and Take Next.

Start-up operators can Take Off with their operation in six weeks instead of typically six months. For mature Fokker operators Take Care is a complete solution to increase Technical Dispatch Reliability (TDR), reduce Direct Operating Cost (DOC) and improve passenger comfort. Operators moving to other aircraft types are supported by Fokker Services in the Take Over of the continued competitive operation of their Fokker fleet. The fourth solution is a package for a mean and lean transfer of aircraft to the next operator, entitled Take Next. Using FLYFokker makes economic sense.

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