



## A340 Aircraft Family

Horizontal Stabiliser, Fuel Tank, Lower Surface and Rear Spar Access Panels

In 1996, following introduction of Skyflex® Aircraft Sealants in hybrid and ribbed form to the horizontal stabiliser spars, Skyflex® OP Fuel Sealant was introduced.

Airbus España, S.L (formerly CASA), was looking for a fuel sealant that would reduce weight, inventory and production costs. Skyflex® OP Fuel Sealant achieved all of these objectives.



Two gaskets are used on the A340-200 and –300 series. The first, EADS part number F559-80032-20000 is used on the lower stabiliser surface, six per span in zones Z333 and Z343. The second, part number F551-82609-20000, is used on the port rear spar web between ribs 19 and 20 in zone Z333.



A cut away view of a SKYFLEX® OP Fuel Sealant gasket and "Handhole" access panel.

The success of Skyflex® OP Fuel Sealant continues with specification on the latest A340-500 and –600 variants.

The new carbon fibre composite stabiliser incorporates access holes in the lower stabiliser surface large enough to gain entry into the torque box.

In the design, EADS took full advantage of the benefits offered by Skyflex® OP Fuel Sealant. The slots, or grooves previously required to seat "O" rings are no longer required. This eliminates stress concentrations allowing for material thickness reductions.

Not only does this remove weight but also simplifies, and reduces the cost of production.

As with all Skyflex products, both maintenance man hours and elapsed time are dramatically reduced. Reinstall the panels, and immediately the aircraft is ready for fuel!