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AMS Aircraft Recovery Sling GSE Validation

Mark,

This is the memo to confirm that Airbus was an observer of the AMS A380 fuselage lifting sling trial at Kemble, UK, in 2006.

The sling test was performed on a Boeing 747-100 forward fuselage in the area just aft of the cockpit in fuselage section 41 & 42. This closely matches the cross section dimensions of the A380 fuselage, which was sufficient for the sling test validation and verification exercise.

The observation began at approximately 10:00 hrs, with the sling assembly and installation completed by 12:00hrs.

Four people were involved in the assembly in total, excluding the two crane drivers.

One crane and one mobile elevating platform were required for the final stage of the installation process.

The sling assembly, related GSE, the installation and methods were all observed to be ergonomically uncomplicated, with sufficient provision for sling rigidity and ease of operation incorporated into the design.

The load test and sling elongation were all within acceptable limits (3%-5%). Sustained loading was observed with no sling slippage along the fuselage or sling linear deformation under load.

The Airbus conclusion was that the validation and verification test achieved all set aims for fit, form and function.

Regards,

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