



Safety recommendation no. 504

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Safety deficit	<p>On a scheduled flight from Newark to Zurich with an Airbus A330-343 commercial aircraft, the amber warning message CAB PR SYS 1 FAULT was displayed in the cockpit during the descent from flight level (FL) 370 to FL 310. A single chime sounded a minute later and the amber warning message CAB PR SYS 1+2 FAULT was displayed simultaneously. The flight crew put on their oxygen masks, initiated an emergency descent and informed the cabin crew. A short time later, it issued a mayday signal to air traffic control and received clearance to descend to FL 150.</p> <p>The flight crew believed that the oxygen masks had been released in the cabin and worked through the corresponding procedure, which required, among other things, the cabin altitude to be controlled manually. The flight crew briefly discussed the displayed cabin altitude and judged it to be correct. About five minutes later, the captain observed that the cabin altitude was no longer displayed. Shortly before landing, the co-pilot noticed that the cabin altitude was being displayed again.</p> <p>The investigation showed that below -2,060 ft, by design, the digital display of the cabin altitude on the CAB PRESS page is replaced by amber crosses and the analogue display is blanked out. This also applies to the display of the cabin differential pressure. This circumstance was not known to the operators of the aircraft. However, it contributes to the fact that in such a case, a flight crew loses almost all ability to manually regulate cabin pressure.</p>
Safety recommendation	The European Aviation Safety Agency (EASA), together with the aircraft manufacturer, should ensure that flight crews are notified in an appropriate way when the cabin altitude is below -2,060 ft.
Addressees	EASA Europäische Agentur für Flugsicherheit
Stage of the implementation	In a letter dated 18 January 2019, the European Aviation Safety Agency said that it would contact the aircraft manufacturer to obtain the information required to assess the safety recommendation.
Investigation report concerning the safety recommendation	Final report Schlussbericht Notification