

United Airlines

Airbus Vortex Generator Project Status

April 2020

United's Airbus Vortex Generator Project

Background

- United works in partnership with the FAA, our airport partners and community groups to improve the noise levels around our airports. Our most important noise-reduction initiative is investing billions of dollars in new, quieter, more fuel efficient aircraft.
- In late 2014 and 2015, United received several requests to install vortex generators on its Airbus 319 and 320 aircraft to eliminate the unique noise signature exhibited on arrival by aircraft manufactured prior to 2014.
 - ONCC
 - SFO
 - LAX
- As a result, United initiated a multi-year project to install vortex generators on our Airbus 319/320 fleet.

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- The VG retrofit program includes over 150 aircraft and will extend over several years.
- The modification is being accomplished during scheduled heavy maintenance checks due to the requirement to drain the fuel tanks to complete the VG installation.
- United's first VG retrofit was completed in August 2017.
- The retrofit schedule is dependent on the heavy maintenance requirements of each aircraft, which until the current COVID-19 crisis was expected to be about 2-3 aircraft per month into the future.
- To date, we have modified about 60 aircraft, or over 1/3 of our fleet.