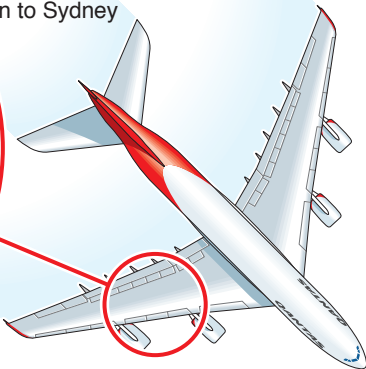
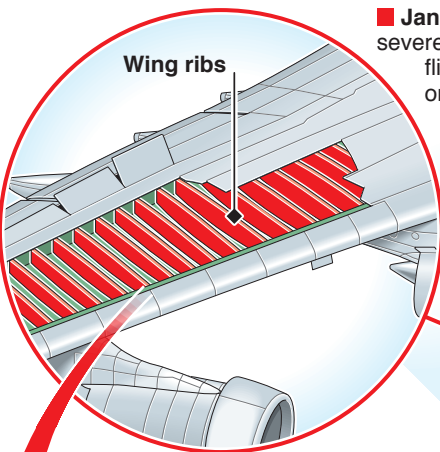


More cracks discovered on Airbus A380 wings

The European Aviation Safety Agency has ordered checks on the entire fleet of Airbus A380s for cracks on wing parts after Australian carrier Qantas discovered dozens of tiny fractures during maintenance checks

■ **Jan 2012:** Qantas A380 encounters severe turbulence on London-Singapore flight. Aircraft checked, cleared to fly on to Sydney

Wing ribs



Aircraft: **VH-OQF** Airframe: **2010** Flight cycles: **399** Flight hours: **2,454**

■ **Feb 5:** Plane grounded in Sydney after further precautionary inspection finds 36 hairline cracks on **wing rib brackets**. They are similar to "Type 1" cracks found in previous A380 checks

■ **Recent EASA directive identifies two crack types:**

Wing rib

Each A380 wing contains around 2,000 L-shaped brackets

■ **Type 2 cracks**
Found in vertical flange of wing ribs. Cause currently under investigation

■ **Type 1 cracks**

Found on rib feet, originating from skin panel attachment holes and caused by high stress and type of aluminium alloy used in manufacture

