EASA

AIRWORTHINESS DIRECTIVE

AD No.: 2014-0150

Date: 18 June 2014

Note: This Airworthiness Directive (AD) is issued by EASA, acting in accordance with Regulation (EC) No 216/2008 on behalf of the European Community, its Member States and of the European third countries that participate in the activities of EASA under Article 66 of that Regulation.

This AD is issued in accordance with EU 748/2012, Part 21.A.3B. In accordance with EC 2042/2003 Annex I, Part M.A.301, the continuing airworthiness of an aircraft shall be ensured by accomplishing any applicable ADs. Consequently, no person may operate an aircraft to which an AD applies, except in accordance with the requirements of that AD, unless otherwise specified by the Agency [EC 2042/2003 Annex I, Part M.A.303] or agreed with the Authority of the State of Registry [EC 216/2008, Article 14(4) exemption].

Design Approval Holder's Name: AGUSTAWESTLAND S.p.A.

Not applicable

Type/Model designation(s): A109 and AW109 helicopters

TCDS Number: EASA.R.005

Supersedure: None

Foreign AD:

ATA 55	Stabilizers – Vertical Fin Vibration Absorber – Inspection / Removal
Manufacturer(s):	AgustaWestland S.p.A (formerly Agusta S.p.A.)
Applicability:	A109S helicopters, serial numbers (s/n) 22011, 22016, 22026, 22042, 22044, 22045, 22049, 22051, 22052, 22059, 22060, 22062, 22063, 22064, 22065, and 22068 on which the vertical fin vibration absorber installation was embodied in production, and
	A109S and AW109 SP helicopters, all s/n on which the vertical fin vibration absorber installation P/N 109-B810-79-101 was embodied in service.
Reason:	During scheduled inspections on A109S and AW109SP helicopters, cracks and damage were detected on the vertical fin vibration absorber installation and the surrounding structure. Investigation results determined that the problem is likely related to the design of the vertical fin vibration absorber and possible incorrect installation thereof.
	This condition, if not detected and corrected, could affect the structural integrity of the helicopter.
	To address this unsafe condition, AgustaWestland issued Bolletino Tecnico (BT) 109S-58 and BT 109SP-074 providing instructions for inspection and removal of the vertical fin vibration absorber.
	For the reason described above, this AD requires repetitive inspections of the vertical fin vibration absorber installation until its removal from the helicopter.
Effective Date:	02 July 2014

Required Action(s) and Compliance Time(s):	Required as indicated, unless accomplished previously:
	(1) Within 30 flight hours (FH) or 3 months, whichever occurs first after the effective date of this AD, and, thereafter, at intervals not to exceed 100 FH, inspect the vertical fin vibration absorber installation in accordance with the instructions of AgustaWestland BT 109S-58 or BT 109SP-074, as applicable to helicopter model.
	(2) If, during any inspection as required by paragraph (1) of this AD, any damage or crack is found on the vertical fin vibration absorber installation or on the surrounding structure (rib assy P/N 109-0372-53-201), before next flight, remove the vertical fin vibration absorber installation from the helicopter and repair any damaged or cracked structure in accordance with the instructions of AgustaWestland BT 109S-58 or BT 109SP-074, as applicable to helicopter model.
	(3) Unless already accomplished as required by paragraph (2) of this AD, within 12 months after the effective date of this AD, remove the vertical fin vibration absorber installation from the helicopter and repair any damaged or cracked surrounding structure in accordance with the instructions of AgustaWestland BT 109S-58 or BT 109SP-074, as applicable to helicopter model.
	(4) From the effective date of this AD, do not install a vertical fin vibration absorber P/N 109-B810-79-101 on any helicopter.
Ref. Publications:	AgustaWestland BT 109S-58 original issue dated 07 May 2014.
	AgustaWestland BT 109SP-074 original issue dated 07 May 2014.
	The use of later approved revisions of these documents is acceptable for compliance with the requirements of this AD.
Remarks:	 If requested and appropriately substantiated, EASA can approve Alternative Methods of Compliance for this AD.
	 This AD was posted on 14 May 2014 as PAD 14-079 for consultation until 28 May 2014. No comments were received during the consultation period.
	 Enquiries regarding this AD should be referred to the Safety Information Section, Executive Directorate, EASA. E-mail: <u>ADs@easa.europa.eu</u>.
	 For any question concerning the technical content of the requirements in this AD, please contact: AgustaWestland S.p.A. Customer Support Via del Gregge, 100 - 21015 Lonate Pozzolo (VA) – Italy Tel.: +39 0331 664905; Fax: +39 0331 664684 Email: <u>Aw109.mbx@agustawestland.com</u>.