

AIRWORTHINESS DIRECTIVE

released by DIRECTION GENERALE DE L'AVIATION CIVILE

Inspection and/or modifications described below are mandatory. No person may operate a product to which this Airworthiness Directive applies except in accordance with the requirements of this Airworthiness Directive.

Translation of 'Consigne de Navigabilité' ref. : 98-173-073(A)
In case of any difficulty, reference should be made to the French original issue.

EUROCOPTER

AS 350 Helicopters

Tail Rotor Drive Shaft Bearings

1. AIRCRAFT CONCERNED

AS 350 helicopters, versions B, B1, B2, D, BA, BB and B3 with tail rotor drive shaft rear section bearing mountings, equipped with :

non-regreasable bearings P/N SKF 6007.2RS 1 MT 47CA (AS 704A33.651.010)

or regreasable bearings P/N KOYO 83A 85 1C3 (AS 704A33.651.143)
FAFNIR P9107NPP7 (AS 704A33.651.111)
FAG 593404 (AS 704A33.651.181)

2. REASON

This Airworthiness Directive is issued subsequent to some reports of in-service failure of the tail rotor drive shaft rear section bearings which might lead to loss of tail rotor drive. The purpose of this Airworthiness Directive is to preclude further failures.

3. ACTIONS TO BE UNDERTAKEN AND COMPLIANCE DUE DATE

3.1. Within 50 flying hours following the effective date of this Airworthiness Directive, for non-regreasable bearings only, and unless it has already been done in compliance with Airworthiness Directive 82-077-025(B) henceforth cancelled, check the squareness of the bearings with respect to the drive shaft and the condition of the bearings and bearing mountings as per paragraphs 1C(1) and 1C(2) in AS 350 Service Bulletin N° 05.00.08 Revision 5 referenced below.

3.2. The visual checks to be carried out as per paragraph 1C(2) (B) of the referenced Service Bulletin must be performed (without removal) every 100 flying hours, irrespective of the bearing type.

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April 22, 1998

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3.3. The condition check of the bearings and bearing mountings to be performed as per paragraph 1C(2) of the referenced Service Bulletin must be carried out :

- every 400 flying hours for non-regreasable bearings
- every 500 flying hours for regreasable bearings.

3.4. The referenced Service Bulletin defines the applicable tolerances and actions to be undertaken according to the findings.

3.5. Greasing

Within the next 100 flying hours from march 2, 1991 (effective date of Airworthiness Directive 82-077-025(B)R2) and only on aircraft with a drive shaft fitted with regreasable bearings, grease the bearings as per Maintenance Manual (MET) work card 12.00.00.305, unless it has already been done when complying with Airworthiness Directive 82-077-025(B) cancelled henceforth.

3.6. Before installing on the Helicopter a drive shaft rear section held as spares, comply with the instructions defined in paragraph 1C(3) of the referenced Service Bulletin.

Ref. : EUROCOPTER AS 350 Service Bulletin N° 05.00.08.R5

EFFECTIVE DATE : MAY 02, 1998