

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. : 2003-358(A)
In case of any difficulty, reference should be made to the French original issue.

EUROCOPTER

EC 130 helicopters

Air intake cowling (ATA 53)

1. EFFECTIVITY:

EC 130 B4 helicopters equipped with air intake cowling attachment fittings 350A25-0405-00, -01, -02, -03, -04, -05.

2. REASONS:

This Airworthiness Directive (AD) is issued following cases of cracks and failures concerning air intake cowling attachment fittings.

This could lead to the loss of the air intake cowling in flight.

3. MANDATORY ACTIONS AND COMPLIANCE TIMES:

The following actions are rendered mandatory from the effective date of this AD.

3.1. Visually check the condition of the two forward fittings in compliance with the instructions described in § 2.B of referenced Alert Service Bulletin (ASB) EUROCOPTER EC 130 n° 53A004:

3.1.1. For aircraft which have less than 100 flight hours (FH): at least at 110 FH,

3.1.2. For aircraft which have 100 FH or more: within the 10 FH.

3.2. If the two forward fittings are neither failed nor cracked, visually check the condition of the two forward fittings every 110 FH in compliance with the instructions of referenced ASB.

3.3. If one, or the two, forward fitting(s) is (are) failed or cracked, check the condition of the center and aft fittings before next flight.

3.4. If one, or more, (forward, center or aft) fitting(s) is (are) failed, replace it (them) before next flight.

3.5. If one, or more, (forward, center or aft) fitting(s) is (are) cracked:

3.5.1. Replace before next flight each cracked fitting which has more than 2 cracks or whose the most extended crack has a length more than 10 mm.

3.5.2. Each cracked fitting which has 2 cracks or less and whose the most extended crack has a length equal to or less than 10 mm may be maintained on aircraft after stopping the crack(s) with a repetitive 20 FH check.

REF.: Alert Service Bulletin EUROCOPTER EC 130 n° 53A004
(or any further approved revision).

This Airworthiness Directive has been the subject of an emergency diffusion on September 16, 2003.

EFFECTIVE DATE :

Upon receipt of the emergency AD from SEPTEMBER 16, 2003