



Emergency Airworthiness Directive

AD No.: 2015-0239-E

Issued: 18 December 2015

Note: This Emergency Airworthiness Directive (AD) is issued by EASA, acting in accordance with Regulation (EC) 216/2008 on behalf of the European Union, 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 Regulation (EU) 748/2012, Part 21.A.3B. In accordance with Regulation (EU) 1321/2014 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 [Regulation (EU) 1321/2014 Annex I, Part M.A.303] or agreed with the Authority of the State of Registry [Regulation (EC) 216/2008, Article 14(4) exemption].

Design Approval Holder's Name:

AIRBUS HELICOPTERS

Type/Model designation(s):

AS 332 and EC 225 helicopters

Effective Date: 22 December 2015

TCDS Number(s): EASA.R.002

Foreign AD: Not applicable

Supersedure: None

ATA 32 – Landing Gear – Emergency Flotation Gear Upper Fitting Attaching Screws – Inspection / Replacement

Manufacturer(s):

Airbus Helicopters (formerly Eurocopter, Eurocopter France, Aerospatiale)

Applicability:

AS 332 C, AS 332 C1, AS 332 L, AS 332 L1, AS 332 L2 and EC 225 LP helicopters, all manufacturer serial numbers, if equipped with emergency flotation gear.

Reason:

An occurrence was reported of rupture of a screw on the rear upper fitting on the left hand (LH) emergency flotation gear on an AS 332 helicopter. Investigations have not yet identified the root cause of this failure.

This condition, if not detected and corrected, could result, in case of ditching, in failure of an emergency flotation system and, consequently, unstable floating of the helicopter, possibly resulting in injury to the occupants.

To address this potential unsafe condition, Airbus Helicopters (AH) issued AS332 Emergency Alert Service Bulletin (ASB) 05.01.06 and EC225 ASB 05A047 (hereafter referred to as 'the applicable ASB' in this AD), providing inspection instructions.



For the reason described above, this AD requires repetitive inspections of the lower screws of the rear upper fitting on the rear LH and right hand (RH) emergency flotation gears and, depending on findings, accomplishment of applicable corrective action(s).

Required Action(s) and Compliance Time(s):

Required as indicated, unless accomplished previously:

- (1) Within 15 flight hours (FH) after the effective date of this AD, and, thereafter, at intervals not to exceed 15 FH, inspect the heads of the three (3) screws on the rear upper fitting of each emergency flotation gear, both LH and RH sides, in accordance with the instructions of paragraph 3.B.1 of the applicable ASB.
- (2) If, during any inspection as required by paragraph (1) of this AD, at least one screw head moves or is found missing on one fitting, before the next flight when the emergency flotation system must be armed, replace the two lower screws and the upper screw on that fitting in accordance with the instructions of paragraph 3.B.2 of the applicable ASB.
- (3) Replacement of screws on a helicopter, as required by paragraph (2) of this AD, does not constitute terminating action for the repetitive inspections as required by paragraph (1) of this AD for that helicopter.

Ref. Publications:

Airbus Helicopters AS332 Emergency ASB 05.01.06, original issue, dated 18 December 2015.

Airbus Helicopters EC225 Emergency ASB 05A047, original issue, dated 18 December 2015.

The use of later approved revisions of these documents (that may be published as standard SB and/or separately revised) is acceptable for compliance with the requirements of this AD.

Remarks:

1. If requested and appropriately substantiated, EASA can approve Alternative Methods of Compliance for this AD.
2. The results of the safety assessment have indicated the need for immediate publication and notification, without the full consultation process.
3. Enquiries regarding this AD should be referred to the EASA Safety Information Section, Certification Directorate. E-mail: ADs@easa.europa.eu.
4. For any question concerning the technical content of the requirements in this AD, please contact: Airbus Helicopters (EBSESB) – Aéroport de Marseille Provence 13725 Marignane Cedex, France; Telephone +33 (4) 42 85 97 97; Fax +33 (4) 42 85 99 66; E-mail: Directive.technical-support@airbus.com.

