



Airworthiness Directive

AD No.: 2016-0161

Issued: 08 August 2016

Note: This 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:

LEONARDO HELICOPTER DIVISION

Type/Model designation(s):

AW 189 helicopters

Effective Date: 22 August 2016

TCDS Number(s): EASA.R.510

Foreign AD: Not applicable

Supersedure: This AD supersedes EASA AD 2015-0161 dated 05 August 2015.

ATA 55 – Stabilizers – Tail plane Lower Fitting – Inspection / Replacement

Manufacturer(s):

Leonardo Helicopter Division, formerly Finmeccanica S.p.A, AgustaWestland S.p.A.

Applicability:

AW 189 helicopters, all manufacturer serial numbers.

Reason:

Some cracks have been reported in-service on the tail plane fitting of AW 189 helicopters following an onset of abnormal play.

This condition, if not detected and corrected, could jeopardize the structural integrity of the helicopter.

To address this unsafe condition, EASA issued AD 2015-0161 which required inspections of the tail plane lower fitting assembly and, depending on findings, replacement of affected parts.

Since that AD was issued, Finmeccanica Helicopter Division (FHD) developed a tail plane lower fitting with improved design, modification Part Number (P/N) 8G000P00511, which, once installed on the helicopters, constitutes terminating action for the requirements of AD 2015-0161.



Modification (MOD) P/N 8G000P00511 encompasses the replacement of the current lower and upper fittings with reinforced parts and also other parts improvement.

For the reasons described above, this AD retains the requirements of the EASA AD 2015-0161 which is superseded, and requires installation of MOD P/N 8G000P00511.

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

Required as indicated, unless accomplished previously:

For helicopters equipped with tail plane lower fitting P/N 8G5350A07051, which is part of tail plane lower fitting assembly P/N 8G5350A06731.

- (1) Within 50 flight hours (FH) after 19 August 2015 [the effective date of EASA AD 2015-0161] and, thereafter, at intervals not to exceed 25 FH, inspect the tail plane lower fitting assembly for play in accordance with the instructions of PART I of FHD BT 189-038 Revision A.
- (2) If, during any inspection as required by paragraph (1) of this AD, any play is found in the tail plane lower fitting assembly, before next flight, inspect bolts P/N 4F5510A00451 and P/N 4F5510A00452 and the elastomeric bushings installed in the fitting P/N 4F5510A01431 and P/N 4F5510A01531, and, depending on findings, accomplish the applicable corrective action(s) in accordance with the instructions of PART I of FHD BT 189-038 Revision A.
- (3) Within 50 FH after 19 August 2015 [the effective date of EASA AD 2015-0161], and thereafter, at intervals not to exceed 50 FH, inspect the tail plane lower fitting for cracks in accordance with the instructions of PART II of FHD BT 189-038 Revision A.
- (4) If, during any inspection as required by paragraph (3) of this AD, any crack and / or damage is found, within 10 FH after that inspection, implement the complete tail plane fitting modification (implementation of MOD P/N 8G000P00511) in accordance with the instructions of FHD BT 189-070.
- (5) Within 200 FH or 2 months, whichever occurs first after the effective date of this AD, unless already accomplished as required by paragraph (4) of this AD, implement the complete tail plane fitting modification (implementation of MOD P/N 8G000P00511) in accordance with the instructions of FHD BT 189-070.
- (6) Inspections, and corrective actions, accomplished before the effective date of this AD in accordance with the instructions of AgustaWestland BT 189-038 at original issue, are acceptable to comply with the initial requirements of paragraphs (1), (2) and (3) of this AD for that helicopter. After the effective date of this AD, BT 189-038 Revision A must be used.
- (7) Modification of a helicopter, as required by paragraph (4) or (5) of this AD, as applicable, constitutes terminating action for the repetitive inspection requirements of this AD for that helicopter.



Ref. Publications:

AgustaWestland BT 189-038 original issue, dated 05 August 2015.

FHD BT 189-038 Revision A, dated 06 April 2016.

FHD BT 189-070 original issue dated 06 April 2016.

The use of later approved revisions of these documents 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. Based on the required actions and the compliance time, EASA have decided to issue a Final AD with Request for Comments, postponing the public consultation process until after publication.
3. Enquiries regarding this AD should be referred to the Safety Information Section, Certification Directorate, EASA. E-mail: ADs@easa.europa.eu.
4. For any question concerning the technical content of the requirements in this AD, please contact: Leonardo Helicopter Division. E-mail: PSE_AW189.MBX.AW@leonardocompany.com.

