



Airworthiness Directive

AD No.: 2016-0177

Issued: 08 September 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 S.p.A.

Type/Model designation(s):

AW 189 helicopters

Effective Date: 22 September 2016

TCDS Number(s): EASA.R.510

Foreign AD: Not applicable

Supersedure: None

ATA 51 – Structures – Tail Gearbox Fitting – Inspection / Replacement

Manufacturer(s):

Leonardo S.p.A. Helicopters (formerly Finmeccanica S.p.A., AgustaWestland S.p.A.)

Applicability:

AW189 helicopters, all serial numbers, if equipped with tail assembly Part Number (P/N) 8G5350A00131.

Reason:

During a scheduled inspection of an AW189 helicopter, a crack was detected on the tail gearbox (TGB) fitting P/N 4F5350A04152.

This condition, if not detected and corrected, could lead to crack propagation up to critical length, reducing the capability of the affected structure to sustain loads from the TGB and tail rotor, possibly resulting in a reduced control of the helicopter.

To address this unsafe condition, Leonardo issued Bollettino Tecnico (BT) 189-114 providing instructions for inspection and replacement of the affected TGB fitting.

For the reason described above, this AD requires repetitive inspections of the TGB fitting and, depending on findings, replacement of the fitting.

This AD is considered an interim action and further AD action may follow.



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

Required as indicated, unless accomplished previously:

- (1) Within 30 flight hours (FH) after the effective date of this AD and, thereafter, at intervals not to exceed 150 FH, inspect the TGB fitting in accordance with the instructions of Part I of Leonardo BT 189-114.
- (2) If, during any inspection as required by paragraph (1) of this AD, a crack is found, before next flight, replace the affected TGB fitting with a serviceable part in accordance with the instructions of Part II of Leonardo BT 189-114.

Ref. Publications:

Leonardo S.p.A. Helicopters BT 189-114 original issue, dated 06 September 2016.

The use of later approved revisions of this document 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 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: Leonardo S.p.A. Helicopters
E-mail: PSE_AW189.MBX.AW@leonardocompany.com.

