



Emergency Airworthiness Directive

AD No.: 2017-0020-E

Issued: 07 February 2017

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 350 and AS 355 Helicopters

Effective Date: 09 February 2017

TCDS Number(s): EASA.R.008, EASA.R.146

Foreign AD: Not applicable

Supersedure: None

ATA 05 – Tail Rotor – Pitch Rod – Inspection

Manufacturer(s):

Airbus Helicopters (formerly Eurocopter, Eurocopter France, Aerospatiale).

Applicability:

AS 350 B, AS 350 BA, AS 350 BB, AS 350 B1, AS 350 B2, AS 350 B3, AS 355 E, AS 355 F, AS 355 F1, AS 355 F2, AS 355 N and AS 355 NP helicopters, all serial numbers, which embody modification (mod) 075601 or mod 076602.

Reason:

Several cases have been reported of finding significant damage of the elastomeric ball-joint of the tail rotor (TR) pitch rod (horn side) on AS 350 and AS 355 helicopters. Investigation is on-going to determine the cause for this damage.

This condition, if not detected and corrected, could lead to loss of control of the helicopter.

To address this unsafe condition, Airbus Helicopters (AH) issued Emergency Alert Safety Bulletin (ASB) No AS350-05.00.86 and ASB AS355-05.00.75, later revised (hereafter collectively referred to as 'the applicable ASB' in this AD) to reduce the interval of the visual inspection, as currently required by chapter 04-20-00 of the applicable Airworthiness Limitation Section (ALS), from 50 flight hours (FH) to 10 FH.



For the reasons described above, this AD requires repetitive inspections of the TR pitch rod, as specified in ALS chapter 04-20-00, but at reduced intervals.

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

Required as indicated, unless accomplished previously:

- (1) Before exceeding 50 FH since the last inspection per ALS chapter 04-20-00, or within 10 FH or 7 days, whichever occurs first after the effective date of this AD, and, thereafter, at intervals not to exceed 10 FH, visually inspect the TR pitch rod in accordance with the instructions of paragraph 3 of the applicable ASB.
- (2) If, during any inspection as required by paragraph (1) of this AD, any damage, as detailed in the instructions of the applicable ASB, is found on one or more layers, with a circumference of more than 90 degrees, before next flight, replace TR pitch change rod with a serviceable pitch rod in accordance with the instructions of the applicable ASB.
- (3) Replacement of a TR pitch rod on a helicopter, as required by paragraph (2) of this AD, does not constitute terminating action for the repetitive inspection as required by paragraph (1) of this AD for that helicopter.

Ref. Publications:

Airbus Helicopters Emergency ASB AS350-05.00.86 Revision 01 dated February 06, 2017.

Airbus Helicopters Emergency ASB AS355-05.00.75 Revision 01 dated February 06, 2017.

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. 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 (EBSEB) – Aéroport de Marseille Provence, 13725 Marignane Cedex, France; Telephone: +33 (4) 12 85 97 97; Fax: +33 (4) 85 99 66; E-mail: Directive.technical-support@airbus.com.

