



Airworthiness Directive

AD No.: 2017-0055

Issued: 31 March 2017

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:

AIRBUS HELICOPTERS

Type/Model designation(s):

SA 365, AS 365, SA 366 and EC 155 helicopters

Effective Date: 14 April 2017

TCDS Number(s): EASA.R.105

Foreign AD: Not applicable

Supersedure: None

ATA 53 – Fuselage – Cowlings and Fairings – Inspection

Manufacturer(s):

Airbus Helicopters (formerly Eurocopter, Eurocopter France, Aerospatiale)

Applicability:

SA 365 N, SA 365 N1, AS 365 N2, AS 365 N3, SA 366 G1, EC 155 B and EC 155 B1 helicopters, all manufacturer serial numbers.

Reason:

In-flight loss of engine and main gearbox (MGB) cowlings was reported by an AS 365 operator. Consequent investigations revealed that the MGB cowl attachment fittings (fixed parts) of the concerned helicopter failed as a result of mounting stress present in the front fitting on the left hand (LH) MGB fixed cowling and air intake bulkhead.

This condition, if not detected and corrected, could result in failure of the MGB fixed cowling front fitting and subsequent detachment of MGB and/or engine cowlings, possibly resulting in damage to, or reduced control of, the helicopter and injury to persons on the ground.

To address this potential unsafe condition, Airbus Helicopters (AH) issued Alert Service Bulletin (ASB) AS365-53.00.55, ASB SA366-53.15 and ASB EC155-53A035 (hereafter referred to as 'the applicable ASB' in this AD), as applicable to helicopter model, to provide inspection and repair instructions.



For the reasons described above, this AD requires a one-time inspection of the MGB fixed cowling front fitting, and depending on findings, accomplishment of applicable corrective action(s).

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

Required as indicated, unless accomplished previously:

Inspection:

- (1) Within 110 flight hours after the effective date of this AD, inspect the MGB fixed cowling front fitting in accordance with the instructions of paragraph 1.E.2 of the applicable ASB.

Corrective Action(s):

- (2) If, during the inspection as required by paragraph (1) of this AD, any discrepancy is detected, as defined in the applicable ASB, before next flight, accomplish the applicable corrective action(s) in accordance with paragraph 1.E.2 of the applicable ASB.

Ref. Publications:

AH ASB AS365-53.00.55 original issue dated 13 March 2017.

AH ASB SA366-53.15 original issue dated 13 March 2017.

AH ASB EC155-53A035 original issue dated 13 March 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. 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: Airbus Helicopters (Technical Support), Aéroport de Marseille Provence 13725 Marignane Cedex, France, Telephone +33 (0)4 42 85 97 97, Fax +33 (0)4 42 85 99 66, E-mail: Web portal: <https://keycopter.airbushelicopters.com> > Technical Requests Management.

